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Vol. 7 No. 14 Monday 23rd May 2011

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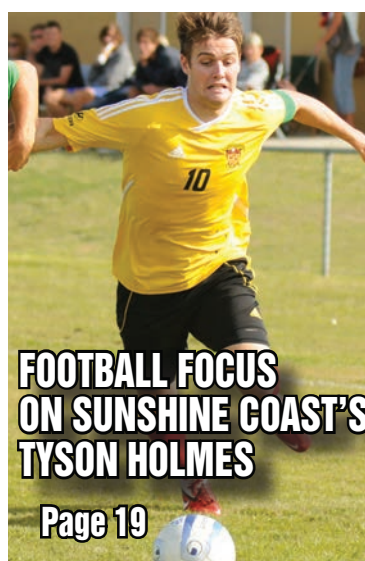
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Tilford Zebras FC



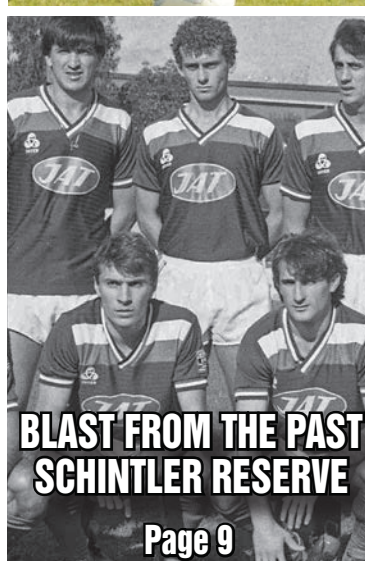
This Week's Line Up



WOMEN'S WORLD CUP
COUNTDOWN
GROUP A
Page 11



FOOTBALL FOCUS
ON SUNSHINE COAST'S
TYSON HOLMES
Page 19



BLAST FROM THE PAST
SCHINTLER RESERVE
Page 9



ALL THE LATEST VPL
ROUND 13 ACTION
Page 22



PHOTO: BRETT McDONALD

Glasgow Celtic to tour OZ in June

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Kings Collide for Euro Glory

By Matthew Galea

In 1956, Sir Matthew Busby defied the Football League. He was told that Manchester United, his Busby Babes as they are so affectionately remembered, could take no part in European football.

He was told that elite football in Europe would not last. It was a fad, they told him. Europe was the future for club football, Busby told them, and on he went, pioneering English football into Europe. That “fad”, as the top dogs of the Football League had termed it, has turned into the greatest competition in club football. Sir Matt’s grand European vision has proven unequivocally true.

Today, the Holy Grail in club football is the UEFA Champions League. On Saturday, the 28th of May, the newly crowned champions of England, Manchester United will take on the reigning champions of Spain, Barcelona, in what is today the greatest game in club football; the Champions League final. It is the sort of final Sir Matt envisioned. A clash between two of the true greats of European football: the side that lead Britain into European football and perhaps the greatest club side in club football history.

Manchester United supporters may perhaps bemoan the fact that their greatest consecutive run in European football has been matched by a Barcelona side that simply look unbeatable. A third final in four seasons, a run that better Barcelona’s two in the same amount of time, is an achievement worthy of praise however, it will mean little if United were to capitulate against this brilliant Barcelona side, as they did in Rome in 2009.

Manchester United are the underdogs, and not for the first time this season. Not many pundits gave them much of a chance over two legs against Chelsea. Despite a record breaking 19th league title and a number of impressive performances, this United side still does not escape the same criticisms that have followed since the season prior. United have beaten Arsenal twice, Liverpool twice, Chelsea thrice, Tottenham and Manchester City, but still, the critics will



Barcelona took the honours last time around when it defeated Manchester United 2-0 in the 2009 Rome final. Sir Alex Ferguson and Pep Guardiola go head-to-head once again in what promises to be a dream final.

not be silenced. The impressive Hernandez, resurgent Rooney, evergreen Giggs and impeccable pairing of Ferdinand and Vidic at the back form just a small sample of a United side that has conquered all before them domestically, and a fourth European trophy for the club would be deserved after another fine season.

Sir Alex knows that Barcelona will be the toughest opponent United have faced this season, but he will also know that beating Barcelona will end all debate about the quality of this squad. This is the “Us vs. Them” mentality Manchester United love. It is the sort of challenge Sir Alex Ferguson relishes. The legendary Scotsman has always maintained that he knows what went wrong in 2009, but has revealed little else when quizzed on the topic. Sir Alex will have a plan, of that there is little doubt, and you would be very surprised to see Manchester United offer a remotely similar performance of the insipid display that saw them suffer a 2-0 defeat in Rome in 2009.

But what on Earth might that plan be? Arsenal tried to “out-Barca” Barcelona in the Round of 16. To be fair, they were only one poor Bentdner finish away from doing the unthinkable. Jose Mourinho and his bullish Real Madrid side awaited in the semi’s and took a, shall we say, different approach to knocking off their Catalan ri-

vals. It proved just as successful as Arsenal’s approach, and Barcelona booked their spot in the Wembley showcase with a deserved 3-1 victory, albeit with some fortunate officiating, over the two legs.

The jury is out as to whether or not this Barcelona side is better than the one that defeated United in Rome two years ago. Samuel Eto’o, goalscorer supreme in Europe’s biggest crunch game, is no longer with the Catalan giants. In his place stands the impressive Villa, whilst Lionel Messi has only gotten better. Xavi and Iniesta are still at their prime, forming the most feared midfield axis in the world for both club and country. Pedro and Busquetes, for all their reprehensible play acting, have developed into good footballers in their own right. The ever so inaccurate ramblings that Barcelona’s defense is not up to scratch have become rather cliché and are a reflection of Barcelona’s brilliance in the other two thirds of the pitch more than anything. While it might be hard to discern whether or not this side is a greater one than the 2009 vintage, there is no doubting that this Barcelona side remain as fearsome as ever. Player for player, pound for pound, there is simply no better.

Pep Guardiola has formed, on the back of a brilliant spine, one of the greatest European sides we have ever seen. Barcelona retain their hunger, their



History in the making? Bobby Charlton holds up the European Cup after Manchester United defeated Benfica 4-1 at the 1968 Wembley final.

desire for more, despite all they have, and whilst people might comment on the overall quality of the side, it is not easy to achieve the maintained success Guardiola has. In an age where players have it all off the pitch, it takes a good manager to instil that winning mentality, that hunger within a squad required to keep winning. It is fitting then, that these two managers should meet in a second Champions League final in three years. It speaks volumes of their ability to continuously motivate their players to achieve unparalleled levels of success.

A contest between two of the greatest clubs in football, there is simply no better match with which to end the season. Manchester United are on an unparalleled high and will go into this match with much



The Match Details

European Champions League Final
Manchester Utd v Barcelona
Wembley Stadium, England

Match broadcast LIVE on SBS this Sunday from 4.14am (AEST).

The Road To Wembley

Group C

	P	W	D	L	F	A	+/-	Pts
1 Manchester United	6	4	2	0	7	1	6	14
2 Valencia CF	6	3	2	1	15	4	11	11
3 Rangers FC	6	1	3	2	3	6	-3	6
4 Bursaspor	6	0	1	5	2	16	-14	1

Man. United 0-0 Rangers FC
Valencia CF 0-1 Man. United
Man. United 1-0 Bursaspor
Bursaspor 0-3 Man. United
Rangers FC 0-1 Man. United
Man. United 1-1 Valencia CF

Group D

	P	W	D	L	F	A	+/-	Pts
1 Barcelona	6	4	2	0	14	3	11	14
2 FC København	6	3	1	2	7	5	2	10
3 Rubin Kazan	6	1	3	2	2	4	-2	6
4 Panathinaikos	6	0	2	4	2	13	-12	2

Barcelona 5-1 Panathinaikos
Rubin Kazan 1-1 Barcelona
Barcelona 2-0 FC København
FC København 1-1 Barcelona
Panathinaikos 0-3 Barcelona
Barcelona 2-0 Rubin Kazan

Round of 16

Marseille 0-0 Man. United
Man. United 2-1Marseille
(Agg. Man. United wins 2-1)

Arsenal 2-1 Barcelona
Barcelona 3-1 Arsenal
(Agg. Barcelona wins 4-3)

Quarter Finals

Chelsea 0-1 Man. United
Man. United 2-1Chelsea
(Agg. Man United wins 3-1)

Barcelona 5-1 Shakhtar Donetsk
Shakhtar Donetsk 0-1 Barcelona
(Agg. Barcelona wins 6-1)

Semi Finals

Schalke 04 0-2 Man. United
Man. United 4-1 FC Schalke 04
(Agg. Man. United wins 6-1)

Real Madrid 0-2 Barcelona
Barcelona 1-1 Real Madrid
(Agg. Barcelona wins 3-1)

The Wins

Real Madrid	9
1956, 1957, 1958, 1958, 1959, 1960, 1966, 1998, 2000, 2002	
Milan	7
1963, 1969, 1989, 1990, 1994, 2003, 2007	
Liverpool	5
1977, 1978, 1981, 1984, 2005	
Bayern Munich	4
1974, 1975, 1976, 2001	
Ajax	4
1971, 1972, 1973, 1995	
Barcelona	3
1992, 2006, 2009	
Internazionale	3
1964, 1965, 2010	
Manchester United	3
1968, 1999, 2008	
Benfica	2
1961, 1962	
Juventus	2
1985, 1996	
Nottingham Forest	2
1979, 1980	
Porto	2
1987, 2004	
Celtic	1
1967	
Hamburg	1
1983	
Steaua București	1
1986	
Marseille	1
1993	
Feyenoord	1
1970	
Aston Villa	1
1982	
PSV Eindhoven	1
1988	
Red Star	1
1991	
Borussia Dortmund	1
1997	

The Odds

Barcelona 1.50
Manchester United 2.50

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Celtic confirms Australia tour

Tribal Sports Management confirmed a three-stop tour of Australia by former European Champions and 42-time Scottish Champions, Glasgow Celtic, is set to go ahead in July after Football Federation Australia provided final approvals late last week.

It will be the Scottish football giants third visit to Australia after previous tours in 1977 and 2009.

Tribal Sports Management Managing Director, Lou Sticca, said he was delighted to be bringing one of the world's most famous and best supported clubs to Sydney (vs Central Coast Mariners at ANZ Stadium on July 2), Perth (vs Perth Glory at NIB Stadium on July 9) and Melbourne (vs Melbourne Victory at AAMI Park on July 13).

"This tour is a victory for the average football supporter. We've worked hard to keep ticket prices down to ensure bumper crowds around the country," Sticca said.

"To promote the best possible atmosphere, each host club will retain their own 'home end' while a 'Jungle Area' will be reserved for active Celtic supporters at the other."

"After seeing first-hand what impact the Celtic visit had on Bris-



Celtic line up before taking on Brisbane Roar during their last visit to Australia in 2009. Socceroo Scott MacDonald receives the tour trophy from Queensland Premier Anna Bligh whilst still with the Bhoys. Photos: BRETT MCDONALD

bane football fans in 2009, we are delighted to provide this opportunity for even more fans around the country to experience the fantastic atmosphere that Celtic supporters are famous for all over the world."

Having represented the other side of Glasgow during his time at Rangers, new Melbourne Victory Assistant Coach, Kevin Muscat,

valry with Celtic that I experienced during my time in Scotland was phenomenal."

"They are a massive club, with some of the best supporters in football. To get them out here to Australia again is not only great for the game, but more importantly, great for the fans."

"Their record speaks for itself, so I've got no doubt there'll be a big

crowd on hand at AAMI Park to watch us take on one of Europe's biggest clubs," Muscat added.

Melbourne Victory Managing Director, Richard Wilson, was equally thrilled. "To get an international opponent of Celtic's calibre is a massive coup for our football club."

"AAMI Park is a world-class facility with an amazing atmosphere, and we're looking forward to host-

ing them in what is the country's newest stadium."

"This trip is crucial to Celtic's pre-season training and we're expecting them to bring a full strength squad. Our fans will also have the chance to see new recruits Jean Carlos Solorzano and Marco Rojas in a Melbourne Victory shirt for the first time."

Ticket Details

Melb Victory v Celtic

Wednesday, July 13, AAMI Park at 7:30pm
Tickets from Ticketek, 132 849
<http://premier.ticketek.com.au>

A pre-sale period will commence on Wednesday, May 25, 2011 for:

- Melbourne Victory members
- Celtic FC and Official Celtic FC Supporter Groups
- Football Family (FFA)
- Ticketek members

Public ticket sales will commence on Friday, May 27, 2011

Perth Glory v Celtic

5pm Saturday, July 9, NIB Stadium
Tickets from Ticketmaster, 136 100
<http://www.ticketmaster.com.au>
Pre-sale for members: Wed May 25
Public sale: Monday, May 30 2011

Mariners v Celtic

7.30pm Saturday, July 9, ANZ Stadium
Tickets from Ticketek on 132 849
<http://premier.ticketek.com.au>
Pre-sale for members: Mon 23 May
Public sale: Friday 27 May.

Riviera Champions League!

The 2011 Riviera Hotel Champions League at Saxon Sports Frankston is fast approaching. An indoor soccer tournament with a difference!

With last years tournament attracting teams from as far as the UK, as well as all over the South East Region, much hype and anticipation surrounds the teams that will contest for Champions League glory in 2011 and the \$3000 prize money!

With The Riviera Hotel, Seaford as our major sponsors once again all teams receive replica team shirts of the side they represent free of charge! The team shirts will be on display shortly, as soon as the teams qualify for the official tournament we'll be getting the shirts in the centre!

Will last years winners Arsenal return this year and attempt to defend their title? Only time will tell!

And with just 32 spots available its sure to fill up very quickly.

There is plenty to play for with \$3000 PRIZE MONEY up for grabs, teams play for the European Cup Trophy, the Europa League Trophy and The Golden Boot Award is another much sought after honour for grabs - last year's winner won it with 62 goals! Can anyone beat that this year?

Highlights are posted weekly on our YouTube Channel, results and weekly round ups are reported in Goal! Weekly, on Facebook and on our website.

The tournament kicks off with the Team Draw Night on Wednesday 28th September.

At the Team Draw Night you will receive your team shirts, which are provided free of charge by us here at Saxon Sports.

At this event each team captain selects the team they wish to represent, the draw takes place in the order that teams sign up and registration fees are paid.

Who you gonna be? Your favorite team? The team with the best shirts? Or a tactical choice to avoid playing certain teams in the group stage?

So if you desperately desire a team (editor 'personally I would be going Chelsea'), get in early!!

The format is simple, the 32 teams



Ben with the Riviera Hotel trophy

that are playing in the real European Champions League will be represented at Saxon Sports from Wednesday October 5th to Wednesday December 21st.

8 groups of 4 play each other both 'home and away' with the top 2 from each group progressing to the Champions League final 16 and the 3rd & 4th placed teams in each group enter the Europa League final 16.

After the group stage, each game is played over 2 legs with the away goals rule deciding games that are tied on aggregate at full time in the second leg - just like the real thing!

Here's the full Riviera Hotel 2011 Champions League Program of Events

Draw Night - Wednesday 28th September

Group stage Game 1 - Wednesday 5th October
Group stage Game 2 - Wednesday 12th October
Group

stage Game 3 - Wednesday 19th October
Group stage Game 4 - Wednesday 26th October
Group stage Game 5 - Wednesday 2nd November
Group stage Game 6 - Wednesday 9th November
Final 16 First Leg - Wednesday 16th November
Final 16 Second Leg - Wednesday 23rd November
Quarter Finals First Leg - Wednesday 30th November
Quarter Finals Second Leg - Wednesday 7th December
Semi Finals First Leg - Wednesday 14th December
Semi Finals Second Leg - Wednesday 21st December
Grand Final - Wednesday 21st December

So which team are you going to represent?
Call Saxon Sports on 9783 6066 to register your team today! Or visit www.saxonsportsfrankston.com for more info.

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FFA Blocks A-League Participation



5th Round Details

Tue 31 May 11 7:30PM
Melb Knights v North Sunshine Eagles
Wed 8 Jun 11 7:30PM
South Melbourne v Port Melbourne
Wed 8 Jun 11 7:30PM
Springvale WE v Malvern City
Wed 8 Jun 11 7:30PM
Ballarat Red Devils v St Albans Saints
Wed 8 Jun 11 7:30PM
FC Bulleen Lions v Northcote City
Wed 8 Jun 11 7:30PM
Dandenong City v D'ning Thunder
Wed 8 Jun 11 7:30PM
Preston Lions v Heidelberg Utd
Wed 8 Jun 11 7:30PM
Southern Stars v Bentleigh Greens
Wed 8 Jun 11 7:30PM
Hume City v Moreland City
Wed 8 Jun 11 7:30PM
Oakleigh Cannons v Pascoe Vale
Wed 8 Jun 11 7:30PM
Green Gully v Sunshine George Cross
Sat 11 Jun 11 3:00PM
FC Clifton Hill v Cobram Victory

By Robert Di Fabio

The state wide Victorian cup competition formally known as the Mirabella Cup has been dealt a major blow last week with A-League clubs- Melbourne Victory and Melbourne Heart forbidden to take is places in the innovative knock-out style competition.

Initially Football Federation Australia endorsed the idea of having the A-League delegates compete in Victoria's version of the F.A Cup; however the head governing body has completed a u-turn, expressing the opinion that their own efforts to create a nationwide FFA Cup competition next year could be comprised by the Victorian based cup competition. The A-League outfits were originally scheduled to come into the competition at the Quarter-Final stage (final eight). With the cup at the last 24 at the moment, the structure of the tournament will need to be amended as there cannot be six teams remaining when the Quarter-Finals commence.

There is no doubt that the FFV, major sponsor Joe Mirabella and the Victorian football fraternity are extremely disappointed with this decision made by the FFA. The Mirabella Cup was a fantastic opportunity for many people within the Victorian football community to grow the brand of the game within the state and promote grassroots football amongst the nationwide A-League sides. It's

extremely disappointing that at this stage of the tournament the FFA can enter the frame and make an unprecedented decision like this.

An FFA spokesman claimed that the football landscape has changed remarkably since the FFA originally gave the Victorian based A-League clubs permission to play in the Mirabella Cup in February. "Since the initial discussions about Victory and Heart participating in the Mirabella Cup, the landscape has changed significantly," he said.

"Having one state and two A-League clubs pre-empt a truly national cup competition is liable to erode the work that has been done and diminish that essential ingredient."

"Many stakeholders want to see the FFA Cup come to life and we need to give the idea every chance of success."

Many throughout the Victorian football community feel betrayed, disheartened and saddened by the lack of respect for grassroots football and direction the game currently obtains. By acting in this manner, the FFA is only denting the relationship with community clubs and is further alienating the prospect of having a positive association with the local communities.

The landscape of football has scarcely changed whatsoever since the announcement of the Mirabella Cup. When the competition was announced, there was talk simultaneously about an FFA Cup coming into fruition next year in March and

having the Final on Australia day the following year (2013). Hence, it doesn't make any sense or sound logical what is being said. The FFA has not announced any details on how the FFA Cup will be structured, potential sponsors, if it will be televised on free to air or pay TV, what the prize money will be involve and if the winner will gain entry into the ACL. With barely any details or structure put into place, it doesn't seem logical that the FFA can come to such a quizical decision given the amount of uncertainty sounding the hypothetical competition. If the FFA felt that the inclusions of Victory and Heart would diminish the glamour of a proposed FFA Cup competition, then why were they allowed to enter the competition from the beginning?

The Mirabella Cup was an ideal opportunity to allow the Victorian A-League clubs to engage with the local community and strengthen the relationship between the A-League and local football. Many people were looking forward with great anticipation to seeing the VPL and State League based outfits participate against the powerhouses of Australian football. Due to the FFA's inability to manage their own business affairs in a coherent and sophisticated manner, the hallucination of facing Victory and Heart is long gone.

The actions from the FFA seem somewhat selfish and unjustified. The Mirabella Cup was brought onto the Victorian landscape with

great appraisal from stockbrokers, clubs, players and the fans. This unprecedented decision gives many the indication that grassroots football and community engagement isn't a high priority for the nation's governing body. If the FFA were affiliated with the competition and consumed a decent amount of revenue, one must wonder if they would still have the same viewpoint.

If the FFA didn't want the Victorian based A-League outfits to participate in the Mirabella Cup and the FFA Cup simultaneously next year then why not let the clubs take part in this year's version. After all, the FFA did give the authorisation to the FFV, major sponsor Joe Mirabella and the 150 clubs competing that they (A-League clubs) would take part.

Both A-League outfits were looking forward to the prospect of playing a Victorian based cup competition and were dumfounded at the untimely decision made by the FFA.

"Us (Victory) and Heart were well and truly happy to be part of this and looking forward to joining the cup. The FFA are now working on an FFA Cup, similar to the FA Cup in the UK and that is proposed to be rolled out in the following year," new Melbourne Victory CEO Anthony Di Pietro said.

In a goodwill gesture, Melbourne Heart Chief Executive Scott Munn announced via Twitter that Heart will play the eventual winner of the Mirabella Cup in a friendly,

with all proceeds to go towards the club.

It's evident that both Victory and Heart are displeased at the recent turmoil surrounding the Mirabella Cup. In some respects, it is a little disappointing that the A-League clubs didn't make a stand up for their own rights and what they truly believe is the best outcome for the Victorian game. Although the clubs may not have been able to change the FFA's decision, it certainly would have made the FFA think twice about how to better organise their business dealings.

With the FFA controlling each A-League club on a franchised run basis, clubs have little independence or say on what they can and can't do which is unfortunately the landscape of the game presently.

The FFA has accomplished some wonderful things with the inauguration of the A-League, the continued success of the Socceroos and other football developments. However, dealings like this with the Mirabella Cup give many people little confidence in the organisation's capacity to run, organise and productively improve community engagement with the local football authorities. Hard work put in by the FFV, sponsors, community clubs and the thousands of Victorian football fans seems rather wasteful when national governing body acts in this manner. Hopefully in the future a more common sense approach is upheld by the FFA and a greater respect is shown towards grassroots football.

Cobram bundles out Zebras in giant Cup kill



Sweet Victory! Matthew Gray and Craig Carley (left with shirts on) and fellow Cobram players celebrate after the match. Photos: ALLISON GRINTER

In an extraordinary turn of events Cobram Victory (Regional), an outfit plying their trade on the Murray River border in the Goulburn Valley North East competition has pulled off the upset of the competition by outclassing Whittlesea Zebras (State 1) 3-2 in an epic, unforgettable encounter.

With a gulf in status among the competing outfits, Cobram stayed true to its name by claiming a victory in the dying minutes. A double from player-coach and former AFC Wimbledon striker Craig Carley in the opening period saw Cobram lead 2-1 at the halftime interval.

The Zebras equalised in the second

half before the romance of cup football was complete when Mathew Gray popped up to score what would be the winning goal in the 87th minute to send the parochial Cobram crowd into cup ecstasy.

Speaking to GW Craig Carley said about the win, "Going into the game we knew if they underestimated us



Richard Spencer puts his body on the-line as the Cup drama unfolds.

and we stuck to our game plan then we'd have a decent chance."

"Once the game settled down after the first 15 minutes we felt we had a strong chance of making a good go of it."

With the Zebras' scalp safely in the bag Cobram Victory's cup reverie will live on for another round as they pre-

pare to take on FC Clifton Hill (State 2) in round five.

Asked if the Cup run can continue, Carley replied, "We're definitely in with a chance. I'll go to Moreland next week and watch them play and we'll just see how it goes. But there's a massive buzz around the whole town at the moment after the last win.

We've got some very good players at this club who could definitely play at a higher level, and we're excited of the prospect of seeing how far this cup run can take us.

Considering Cobram beat Benalla in the league 13-0 on the weekend who's to say this cup fairytale can't continue for at least another round.



Matthew Gray gets ready to embrace Craig Carley who got the show on the road with a double for an unforgettable Cup win for Cobram.



Cobram players attempt to pass this Zebra crossing.

With eight goals to his credit so far this season and in the running for the Golden Boot, Richie Cardozo has been a key part of Hume City's push towards Alanic VPL top honours this season. Goal! Weekly's Francis Field caught up with the in-form striker and old time friend to talk about all things football.

Francis Fields: We met when we were only six or seven years old. Firstly, how is the season (VPL 2011) going for you?

Richie Cardozo: It's a bit of a mixed bag at the moment. We're aiming at a top two finish with the players we've got. There's been a couple of disappointing results but I think we can pick up hopefully.

FF: The match against South Melbourne in particular, tell us about that?

RC: Yes that remains in my memory even if it was a few weeks back, yes. It was good. We (Hume) got a bit lucky with a few decisions going our way, but I think we played very well.

Five-nil is probably a little bit flattering but you know, we definitely did deserve the win and it was good to get on the scoresheet as well.

FF: Tell us the change from last season in the dressing room. How has that been? Have things spiced up a bit, with a few players leaving and others arriving and settling in?

RC: I think basically, we've kept the majority of the squad, it's been predominantly the same. It's been a good transition. We've had a couple of players in to strengthen the squad, but I think the main thing that we have got going for us is that I think we're a good unit. We're all friends off the park and we all work for each other on the park so it carries over which is a good thing that will show this year.

FF: Tell us for those readers who happen to not know who Richie Cardozo is, you have been around. In the old NSL, NYL (National Youth League), New Zealand, Switzerland, top divisions, lower divisions, back in the New South Wales Premier League as well for a while. Tell us a bit about yourself.

RC: Yes, (chuckles). As you said, I've been around for a long time. I think I made my first grade debut at 17 so it's a good 8 or 9 years now. You get your good and bad experiences and you've got to take it on the chin.

The past is the past and whether they are good or bad, you've got to work hard and try to make the future as bright as it possibly can be. Ideally I would like to play in the A-League or get another contract overseas. My ambitions are still to play football as high as possible. Hopefully there's a lot more to come.

FF: Any rumours, any scouts out there on the look keeping an eye out in the VPL?

RC: Not as far as I'm aware. Rumours are rumours. I try not to buy into them too much. You have to take them as they come, if there is any interest then great and hopefully it's genuine interest. Ultimately, all I can do is play football and I know my performances can catch someone's eye and a contract somewhere. Otherwise

I would have to concentrate on winning the championship with Hume which is priority. Winning some personal trophies as well.

Richie Cardozo celebrates after scoring a brace in the 5-0 rout of South Melbourne in Round 9 of the Alanic VPL game.

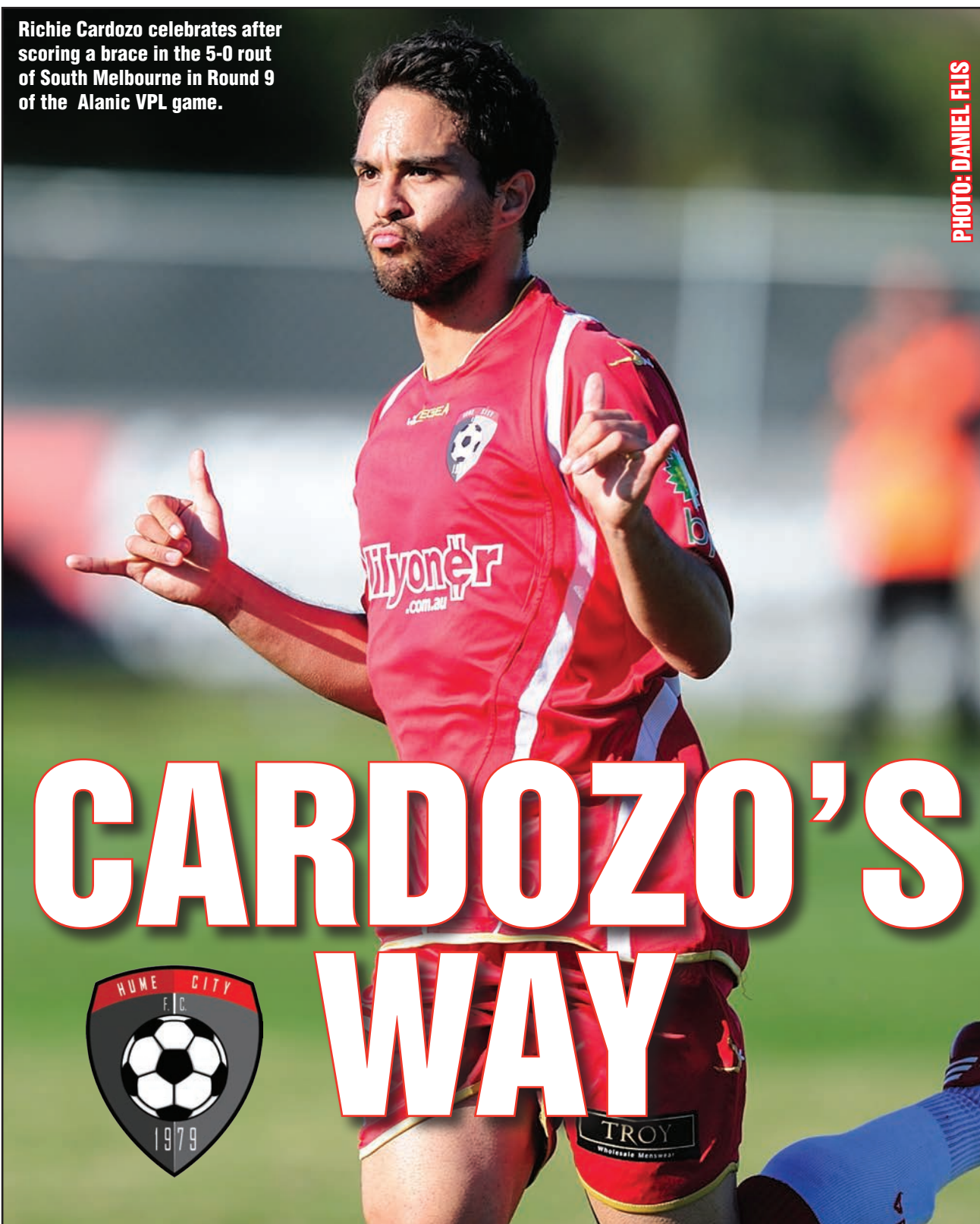


PHOTO: DANIEL FLIS

CARDOZO'S WAY

FF: Back to the VPL, what has been your most consistent and difficult rival player to this date?

RC: I think, on any week anyone can beat anyone. That's the thing about the VPL. The top two or three are rarely separated by more than three or four points you know so even the bottom five or six are breathing down your neck. It's very close so there's a lot of factors that go into that so as most squads are quite strong and pretty even, the pitches, the weather condition and I can even add the referees add to the equation. It's hard to say really. Seems to be the same five or six clubs that make the finals most of the years that just goes to show the work they put behind with building infrastructure and things like that.

FF: Tell us about your playing time in Switzerland?

RC: It didn't turn out the way I wanted it to turn out, like my dreams with a big-money contract. There were times that were tough. I learnt a new language, made some good friends and most importantly I enjoyed my football. I got that experience under my belt that a lot of players would like to get.

FF: What about the standard of football?

RC: The standard is very technical. I was at the French side so it was very influenced by the French

mentality, to play the ball along the ground where there's a lot of passing and interchanging. It's a beautiful way to play. They are very technical, the short passing and they appreciate gifted players. There are other influences there as well.

FF: There's been talk from Ljubo Milicevic, coming back from Switzerland. The old National Soccer League and that technically he still prefers it to the A-League. That it is still missed and the A-League does not match that, technically speaking.

RC: On a technical point of view, I think Ljubo has very valid points in some of the things he says. He has obviously been there and that, playing UEFA Champions League. Speaking to him a few times and rating him as a player, he is a good bloke. I don't find the things he has said should be taken as an insult.

FF: They should be taken constructively.

RC: They should be taken constructively, exactly. There are players who did played in the old NSL who would have shined in the A-League. There was a bit more of a technical influence back then and it is a shame that those players aren't in there but you know, that's the point of installing a new league. In saying that, the A-League is doing very well, it is

full-time and expanding into Asia. Hopefully the clubs next year, (Brisbane Roar and the Central Coast Mariners) do well in the Asian Champions League too.

FF: Your career. Has it been going the way you have expected?

RC: The short answer is no!

FF: What attributes to that expectation then?

RC: Well, at 17 I was a Joey at the FIFA Under 17 World Cup in Finland. To see myself playing at the AVPL at this very moment wasn't what I expected at that age. One is ambitious and dreams big. I will not give up however, this is my ultimate goal to keep scoring goals as I do and you know, burn bridges that way I can play at the very top.

FF: That's right, the Under-17 World Cup was in 2003, you played in the group stage against Hugo Tocalli's wonderful Argentina side.

RC: It was special. Oscar Ustari was in goals, I remember having Fernando Gago against me, he was class and I felt I had nothing to envy any of them on the field, we were a good side under Ange (Postecoglou) and on the same level playing field. Lucas Biglia was their captain...

FF: (Interrupting) Yes, Neri Cardozo (chuckles) your

surname namesake who now plays in Mexico, the ex-Boca midfielder was in that team. Also, the other Real Madrid player in Ezequiel Garay in defense, star midfielder Lautaro F6rmica of Cerro Porte6o in Paraguay...

RC: That's right, I mean, when you live and breathe football while at the same time not only as a fan but as a player and realise you are also in the mix, that all those sacrifices made pay off, it does make you aware what you have done and where you are going. In the Joeys, A-League regulars like Erik Paartalu was in the group, great bunch of guys, Kristian Sarkies you know, and Adrian Leijer. It slightly doesn't make sense but it should be all in due time. I just have to keep playing well and work hard.

FF: Just to sum up personally then, having an older brother and being part of that 'golden generation' of Australian football. Did you look up to him? Who did you look up to when a young boy?

RC: Being of South American background, I love the ball on the ground. It is essentially the most beautiful. Also in the past it has been the most successful. It doesn't matter if there's little money over there because that brand of football is the style that is emulated in Europe and across the world.

My favourite player to watch is Lionel Messi and yes, I did look up to Diego Maradona. Players like that who could take the whole team on their shoulder. With teams, I'm a Real Madrid and a massive River Plate supporter. It's a personal thing. In England, it's Liverpool but I love watching Barcelona!

It's a bit contradicting but I love the way they play.

FF: Yes, River Plate are known to play the more exuberant football and Boca is the one that plays a bit more dirty but get the games and the results. Also, in Uruguay, I mean, you are of half-Uruguayan background, what is your connection with the other side of the River Plate?

RC: Look, I stress that I am Australian of Argentine and Uruguayan background, yes. I'm not just of Argentinean extract. It's a good mixture to have, the mentalities are similar but different. Does that make sense?

FF: Well, there's lots of meat if you're a carnivore.

RC: Lots of meat! Coming from my dad, I'm a Pe6narol supporter too. He grew up going to the matches at the Centenario stadium so football runs in his veins. He has been an influence to my game, to my life and I dream of one day as a supporter going to the ground and see them play. It would be a lovely experience.

FF: Back home, the Mirabella Cup, how do you find it?

RC: I think it's a great idea. The Victorian Premier League clubs get to challenge the bottom league clubs and the bottom league clubs get to challenge the Premier League and the A-League clubs. You know, there are a lot of players in the Premier League and the A-League who need to be challenged and it's a good opportunity for that.

It's a good way to expand the grassroots and give exposure to the Victorian Premier League clubs and all the rest of it down the pyramid.

FF: Your goals, there are memorable and important goals. Which has been your most memorable goal?

RC: To this day, I have been lucky to score 20-odd goals at the moment with Hume City, from last season to this season. There is one that sticks out against South Melbourne that hung off the boot very well. Very happy with that one. There is also one when a little boy.

FF: Australia, tell us en route to Brazil 2014?

RC: Football in this country needs to continue growing. Hopefully the Socceroos qualify and get past the group stages. That's not to be seen as an achievement but a process we need to be doing first and foremost. Then, anything onwards can be seen as an achievement. It's a long road.

FF: Finally, to wrap up what do you say about the first season for Melbourne Heart?

RC: The first season has the right ideas. The coach (John van 't Schip) is a good coach, he likes to play well, attacking and they didn't get the results they wanted. Wanting to get to the finals in their first year was what Heart wanted and they failed, they just missed out. They will manage to get in next year as a second shot because of their philosophy, yes, it's what all clubs should be doing. It's about forming identity.

FF: Many thanks for your time and best of luck for the rest of the season.

Viva Espana



Pepe Lopez

1999-2000 Spanish La Liga Champions Deportivo La Coruna were relegated on the final day of the 2010-2011 season, along with Hercules, ironically the only team this season in all Domestic and European competitions to beat the La Liga Champions Barcelona at the Nou Camp.

Almeria were also relegated, finishing last and being on the receiving end of 8 goals against Real Madrid at the Santiago Bernebau. Whilst Almeria and Hercules were effectively relegated prior to the last round of the season, Deportivo needed just a draw at home against Valencia in the last round of the season to survive, but lost 2-0. Real Zaragoza actually started the weekend in the relegation drop zone, but managed to climb to safety with a 2-1 win away to Levante.

The other big news of the weekend, was Ronaldo's two goal effort, in an

8-1 win over Almeria, to bring his total of goals to 40 this La Liga season, and to become the all time leading goalscorer in any one season of the top Spanish Football League. Jose Mourinho chose to play many names subject to be on the cards for a move away from the Santiago Bernebau. Emmanuel Adebayor, on loan from Manchester City scored a hatrick in potentially his last game for Real Madrid, Karim Benzema scored

Balkan Wrap



Alex Milic

Serbia
Partizan is one step closer to securing their fourth consecutive League Title following Red Stars loss to Borac Cacak. The Belgrade 'Black and Whites' easily accounted for relegated Cukaricki 4:0 while Red Star lost 2:0 in Cacak.

The loss means Partizan is six points clear at the top and all the need is one point in the next two fixtures to secure the League Title. It's been an interesting season with a lot of controversy which has marred the SuperLiga this season. Partizan has been on many occasions accused of match fixing with a lot of help from referees this season. The Leagues other clubs are fed up with the way football is being run in the country and everyone wants drastic changes except for Partizan which of course excels in winning practically everything in Serbia due to the help of the federation.

Red Star Manager Robert Prosinecki wasn't pleased with his sides performance against Borac a match Red Star had to win to remain in the title race. Red Star had some excellent chances to score but they were punished on two occasions thanks to shocking defending.
"Id like to congratulate Borac on their deserved win. Today my players played their worst match since I've been the clubs Manager. Borac which has been playing good football this second half of the season, took advantage of our mistakes and deservedly won today. Without any running, without any desire and

Former La Liga Champions Deportivo Relegated



Ronaldo does it again and becomes the highest ever goal scorer in a La Liga season with 40 big ones.

2 goals, Benzema's earlier poor season form was the trigger for Jose Mourihno to bring Adebayor to Real Madrid. Benzema was last season the subject of a 20 million Euro bid from Manchester United, this is likely to be the case again this upcoming off-season. Kaka was also in the starting Real Madrid line-up, Kaka is currently the subject of a 50 million Euro transfer bid from Chelsea, whilst Manchester City denied they had submitted a 150 million Euro bid for Real Madrid's Ronaldo. In other game news 38 year old Polish goalkeeper Jerzy Dudek played his last game for Real Madrid, walking off to the standing ovation in the 70th minute,

replaced with substitute debutant "Jesus". Jesus was not required to make any saves for Real, but should he see more game time next season, media will have a field day with headlines reading "Jesus Saves".

Barcelona fielded a reserve team away to Malaga. Malaga took a 31 minute lead, but a young Barcelona second string team managed to pull themselves out of trouble, and with two late goals ran out 3-1 winners. Barca Coach Pep Guardiola, gave late game time to substitutes to Pedro and Dani Alves. The appearance of Pedro in this game was significant, as Pedro is a direct alternate forward solution to out-of-form David

Villa, who has lost his goalscoring touch since having to appear in court in March this year to resolve a 6 million pay dispute with his former agent. Barca got the win, and with just one week away until their Champions League Final date with Manchester United, will go into the biggest football match of 2011 calendar with a full squad to choose from.

Fourth last Mallorca celebrated despite losing an epic home tie against Atletico Madrid 4-3, finishing 1 point ahead of Deportivo La Coruna. Sergio "Kun" Aguero moved to equal 3rd on the 2010-2011 La Liga goalscorers table (behind Christian Ronaldo and Lionel Messi), with a superb hat-

trick, bringing his total of La Liga goals to 20.

Aguero was equal third on the goalscorers table with Seville's Alvaro Negredo who scored 2 goals in Seville's 3-2 away win against Espanyol.

La Liga Round 38 Results; SATURDAY, MAY 22, 2011
Málaga CF 1-3 FC Barcelona
Hércules CF 0-0 Sporting Gijón
Real Madrid 8-1 UD Almería
CA Osasuna 1-0 Villarreal CF
Deportivo LC 0-2 Valencia CF
Levante UD 1-2 Real Zaragoza
R Santander 1-2 Athletic Bilbao
RCD Espanyol 2-3 Sevilla FC
Mallorca 3-4 Atlético Madrid
Real Sociedad 1-1 Getafe CF



Dinamo celebrate clinching their 13th 1HNL title

the League history, adding to that, they easily walked away with the title and are ever so close to claiming the Cup which would mean a domestic double. Despite all that Vahid Halihodzic and club President Zdravko Mamic had a dispute which meant the end to Halihodzic's career at Dinamo. Mamic wasn't pleased with the clubs on field performances despite winning the league with seven rounds remaining and despite the records broken. It was one of the biggest disputes Croatian football has seen and a real media frenzy. Halihodzic resigned and in came Assistant Manager Marijo Tot for the remaining three games of the season. Dinamo celebrated their title win following the 1:1 draw with Split at the Maksimir over the weekend but only 3,000 fans came to join in the celebrations of the nation's biggest club, which one has to ask, does anyone in Croatia really care

about the success of football in the nation?

Hajduk started the season off well but a huge dip in form cost the club dearly and Manager Goran Vucevic was sacked when the title was seemingly out of reach. Another former Hajduk player Ante Mise stepped in to replace Vucevic in his second stint as the clubs Manager. Hajduk managed to finish second and will have to consolidate with a spot in the Europa League. The clubs biggest goal for next season should be to find a manager cable of playing effective football which brings the fans back to the stadiums and a manager that the board has its full trust in.

NK Zagreb will remain in the top flight following a 3:2 away win over Dragovoljac. It was a rather poor performance for a club which always battles for a European position. Zagreb striker Ivan Krstanovic can however be pleased with the season

CROATIA			
	P	GD	Pts
1 Dinamo	30	+40	72
2 Hajduk	30	+22	55
3 Split	30	+16	53
4 Cibalia	30	+9	44
5 Inter Zapresic	30	-4	42
6 Karlovac	30	-2	41
7 Slaven Belupo	30	+4	40
8 Osijek	30	+2	39
9 Rijeka	30	-6	39
10 Zadar	30	-3	38
11 Varazdin	30	-6	36
12 Sibenik	30	-1	35
13 Zagreb	30	-7	35
14 Lokomotiva	30	-13	33
15 Istra 1961	30	-20	31

he had. Krstanovic scored 19 goals which was the most in the league and he will be awarded the Golden Boot for Prva Liga top goalscorer. Krstanovic scored five goals more

SHORT PASSES

Sydney FC add talented young duo to roster
Two-time Hyundai A-League Champions Sydney FC has added the talents of 21-year-old attacking midfielder Joel Chianese and 21-year-old defender Nathan Sherlock to their senior roster with the duo both signing two-year-deals

Fans Forum In Sydney
The World Game will host a football fan forum on Tuesday 24 May to be broadcast in two, one-hour The World Game specials in June on SBS.
The World Game Football Forum
Date:Wednesday, 24 May
Time: 7:00pm start
Location: Jones Bay Wharf Pyrmont, Piers 19-21 Upper Deck, 26-32 Pirrama Rd, Pyrmont Point

Joeys World Cup Draw
The Qantas Joeys have been drawn in Group F alongside Côte d'Ivoire, Brazil and Denmark for the FIFA U-17 World Cup Mexico 2011 which will be played from 18 June to 10 July.

Alanic VPL Transfers
The VPL transfer window opened last Monday and the scramble to bolster squads has begun in earnest. GW will bring you a complete list once the window closes, but so far here are some of the main moves:
Jean Charles Dubois (Knights to South Melb)
Junior Camargo (Knights to South Melb)
Daniel Dragicevic (Knights to South Melb)
Tomislav Uskok (Saints to Knights)
Tom Matthews (Greens to South)
Gianni De Nittis (South to North-cote)
Michael Anderson (Gully/released)
Neven Antic (Cannons to Saints)
Alex Florea (Cannons to Hume)
Hayden Doyle (Greens to Cannons)
Richard Offiong (Gateshead,UK to Cannons)
Devon Bonne (South Melb to Richmond)
Scott Muirhead (Stirling Lions, WA to Richmond)
Didier Imbert (Clifton Hill to Richmond)
Nick Marinou (Korinthos FC (Greece) to Richmond)
Luke Biles (UK to Heidelberg)
Adrian Caceres (Heidelberg to India)

Dirk Melton appointed SFC CEO
Dirk Melton has been appointed as Sydney FC's new Chief Executive Officer (CEO).
Dirk joins SFC from the position of Chief Operating Officer at National Rugby League (NRL) club the Canterbury – Bankstown Bulldogs where he played a leading role in the clubs successful change management and brand repositioning programs.

SERBIA			
	P	GD	Pts
1. Partizan	28	72:19	72
2. Crvena zvezda	28	48:16	66
3. Vojvodina	28	44:12	66
4. Rad	28	38:22	50
5. Sloboda Sevojno	28	32:33	40
6. Spartak	28	29:23	39
7. OFK Beograd	28	23:25	39
8. Javor	28	20:24	37
9. Borac	28	20:27	35
10. Smederevo	28	24:29	34
11. Jagodina	28	23:29	31
12. BSK	28	21:35	30
13. Metalac	28	19:34	28
14. Hajduk	28	21:35	25
15. Indija	28	27:47	23

than second placed Ante Vukusic, the Hajduk striker scored 14 goals in a fantastic season for the youngster which has resulted in a call up to Slaven Bilic's National Team.

The costly price of European football

By Josh Landy

In most settings coming second makes you the first loser, but in the English Premier League it's most certainly the first runner up.

Such are the financial windfalls of Champions League qualification - which make the race for the top 4 compelling viewing. When Tottenham broke into the sacred fourth position last season, their fans celebrated wildly - it's become seen as a far more notable achievement than winning even the FA cup.

In England the winners of the Carling Cup, FA Cup and the 5th placed club earn the right to play in the Europa League. However with teams who often finish in the top four (and automatically qualify for the Champions League) winning the two domestic cup competitions - the Europa League has become home for clubs such as Stoke City, who with their FA Cup Final opponents Man City almost certain to play in the

Champions League will play in the Europa League even if they lose at Wembley.

The Europa League, with its new format including a group stage has quickly become the Champions League Division 2. Certainly, long gone are the days where big teams were excited to play in it, which is why the battle in the Premier League for 5th spot is unclear if it's worth winning.

As it stands Liverpool or Spurs will have their Thursday nights during the winter taken up by playing the Belarussian cup winners or similar. What's the point for either club? To win the tournament you need to play 15 games (assuming you take no part in the qualifying rounds) leaving you facing an incessant Thursday / Sunday fixture list. With some potentially long haul trips to Eastern Europe, it almost seems counter productive. In any event, were Liverpool to win the Europa League next year it'd be an embarrassment to speak too highly of it. After all, Liverpool

have won 5 European Cups.

One argument for Liverpool wanting to finish 5th is that it will help to attract players to the club as they will be able to offer them European football. But with a resurgence under Kenny Dalglish surely it would be better for Liverpool if they focused on being back in the top four and the Champions League next season - an additional dozen games for getting to at least an expected quarter final will take its toll.

I'm sure no manager would tell their players to go out and not win a game of football, but I can't help and wonder whether it will cross the minds of Harry Redknapp and Kenny Dalglish come the last day of the season with 5th placed likely to be undecided as things stand.

Who'd have thought it? European football is possibly more trouble than it's worth.



Krnecic's Crunchlines

Australian soccer legend, Eddie Krncevic represented the Socceroos 35 times and scored 17 goals. He played professionally in Europe for Dinamo Zagreb (Croatia), MSV Duisberg (Germany), Mulhouse (France) and Anderlecht, FC Liege, Aalst and Charleroi in Belgium. Eddie is currently coach of VPL's South Melbourne FC.

With Eddie Krncevic

THE hot topic in Victorian football this week has been the withdrawal of Melbourne's two A-league clubs, Victory and Heart, from the Mirabella Cup competition just as it enters its penultimate rounds.

The decision has flamed much debate around the local football world but I don't think anyone really should be too surprised. When the A-league was initially formed the FFA obviously intended to protect its polished new brand and keep its more glamorous participants separate from the old world of soccer, said from a few practice games and friendly matches against Premier League opponents as the HAL clubs prepared for a new season ahead. What doesn't look good here for

the FFA is the Julia Gillardesque back-flip of the decision to allow Heart and Victory enter the Mirabella Cup competition in the first place. The indecisiveness strikes a blow to grassroots football and is a setback for popularity contests.

No doubt, one of the main basis for the afterthought of the decision is that the FFA also wants to protect the exclusivity of having HAL clubs compete in the intended FFA Cup, and they wouldn't want the Mirabella Cup to take away any of the shine from that.

However, in one sense, a prime opportunity has been lost whereby the powers that be could have gauged the participation of the Heart and Victory in the

Mirabella Cup before implementing the real deal with the FFA Cup.

Furthermore, I believe one of the main reasons that Heart and Victory were given the green light to be involved in the Mirabella Cup was because the apparent alarming decline in the A-league numbers caused the powers that be to hit the panic button.

It almost felt like a belated peace offering gesture under the guise of goodwill, but with the underlying motive to rebuild a connection between the two platforms of old soccer and new football.

The crowds and in some instances franchises, have come and gone since the halcyon days in the very beginning of the HAL, and it was probably felt that a stronger alignment must be made with the true and genuine participants of the game in moving forward.

Overall, it's not a good reflection on the game's behalf. The grassroots feel like they have been underdone yet again. Like throwing a dog a bone, only for it to be taken away from them.



BOO'S WORLD



With Mark Boric

Welcome to the weekly look at the latest farce in Australian football.

This week, it is the news broken in *The Age* by Michael Lynch, that Melbourne Victory and Melbourne Heart have been forbidden from participating in the 2011 Mirabella Cup by the FFA. Now this had been rumoured for some time, and to some was therefore not unexpected. To read the FFA's Mirabella Cup updates, however, it sounded as if the A-League club's participation was confirmed.

Did the FFA jump the gun in announcing that Heart and Victory would be competing? If they did they certainly went the whole hog, as when entries were being sought (\$200 per State League team, \$500 per AVPL club from memory, tellingly no figures given what it cost the big boys to enter) clubs were sold the dream of being able to play against an A-League club should they progress far enough.

The FFA must have been given some kind of indication the HAL clubs would be allowed to play, surely? If so, why the embarrassing back-flip? It has made the whole concept look amateurish, and in the eyes of the more ardent critics, almost fraudulent in collecting entry fees having promoted the participation of Victory and Heart. Having endured a poor season at the turnstiles and the death of one club, the FFA made noises about reconnecting with the grassroots and attempting to build a bridge between the so-called "Old Soccer" and "New Football". Surely they could



see this move as being a step in the wrong direction in that endeavour? In the words of a late great from another football code, it is fair dinkum unbelievable.

Moving on, but not too far of this topic, we head to the Hall of Shame. Not content with messing around one Cup competition for the week, comes some staggering news about the FFA from Sydney this week. Following some renovations at the Hakoah Club, a builder found the original Australia Cup (played for in the 1960's) in a dumpster. News of the find was posted on the Sydney FC Unofficial (SFCU) fan's forum, along with mention that the FFA had been contacted about it and shown no interest in acquiring the trophy. You would think they would have some-

where to keep it and bring it out for Hall of Fame functions when they pay lip service to football history, but obviously not.

Some meaningless talk on the corruption front that FIFA are looking at cleaning up their act. The possibility of the 2022 World Cup hosting decision being reviewed and a possible re-vote have been flagged, getting some people excited all over again. It's not going to happen. We should just let FIFA know they can have our one vote back if the Qataris write us out a cheque for the \$45 million it cost us, and move on.

Planking is all the rage at the moment, even Sam Newman is getting in on the act. But you would have to say it's finest exponent will always be Cristiano Ronaldo in a penalty area.



KATSA'S KORNER

With George Katsamboukas

Bookmakers are advised to rule a line through their Books, as this is a term that has been heard by Track Suit clad Club Powerbrokers, who in the off Season, to frequent the many Race Tracks in Melbourne.

It now applies to the 2022 World Cup, as it has been found that the way that Qatar 'earned' the right to host the Finals was somewhat controversial, and there is a good chance that the Voting Process will occur again.

What this means is that the World Cup Powerbrokers may possibly have another chance to hear the Kaching sound, as it is alleged that many did, in return for providing their vote to the Country that provided them with this great Kaching feeling.

This will have far reaching effects on the global Economy, with the Happy End girls preparing for this new wave of Economic 'Stimulation', with necessary appointments being made for 'Brazilian' Services, just to add that something 'Extra' to their 'Presentation'.

On a local level, the Federal Government has been asked by the opposition as to where 43 odd Million was spent on our Cup bid, the return for which was one solitary Vote.

They are still awaiting an answer, perhaps they should wait to till the next bid is completed so as they do not need to re-ask this question.

Over to the house of Darebin we go, where last week it was announced that any new and up and coming Men In Black will wear Green Strips whilst they are in training, in the hope that the Punters will be a little more understanding whilst they are going through their initial first few matches.

Somehow this sounds to me like X Marks the Spot, as the Punters will know that these Gus are new to the game, however will they be forgiving when errors are made, knowing full well that they lack experience?

Over to the Mirabella Cup we go, where it has been confirmed that the Melbourne Victory and Melbourne Heart will not be taking part in this Competition as the Good Folk from the FFA have asked that they do not compete, just in case they get a Nation Wide knock out Cup in place.

I'm sure that local Clubs will cherish the thought of travelling to NSW and QLD, oh let's not forget WA, for these Matches.

Pop Stars eagerly await pay nights, where they all congre-

gate outside the Club Office and one by one as they are called in to collect their hard earned.

Seems that one Pop Star however, wants this transaction to take place on a one on one basis, with the Club Powerbroker actually counting out the Notes in front of him, one by one.

If this task gets a touch tedious, Tony Montana from Scarface Fame has a money counting machine that is gathering dust, I'm sure he would lend it out.

Whilst we are on the topic of Club Powerbrokers, I caught up with one last Week who put on a massive eating exhibition, as he was a touch anxious about this Team's Match the next day.

As the 700 Gram Steak that he mangled was not enough, a half eaten serving of Spaghetti Carbonarra made itself available, which was polished off in style, followed up with a Litre of Coke and a few Mars Bars.

Seems that this type of activity is common with Club Powerbrokers, as this one is not alone, and it gives new meaning to the Term, 'Comfort Eating'.

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Schintler Reserve

BLAST FROM THE PAST



With Roy Hay

SCHINTLER RESERVE in Footscray was the home of the Yugoslav United Soccer Team, better known by its initials as JUST, which was a powerhouse in the Victorian State League in the 1950s and 1960s and a founder member of the National Soccer League in 1977.

Situated among the industrial and transport facilities of in the west of Melbourne the stadium reflected the struggles the game faced to gain acceptance in the post war years. Footscray council was divided between the pursuit of employment and housing for its growing population and the provision of sports facilities for the migrants who were required to supply the labour. Add to that the defensive attitude of the existing sports, predominantly cricket and football, which feared the spread of what had been pigeon-holed as a foreign game and it is not surprising that the round ball code was marginalised, culturally and geographically. Today the ground is no more, replaced by a container depot.

Football in Footscray goes back before the First World War and Footscray Thistle won the Dockerty Cup in 1919 and was league champion in 1924. A team from the Bradford Cotton Mills played in the Victorian Amateur Soccer Football Association in the late 1940s and in 1950 it became Footscray City playing at the Henry Turner Reserve off Farnsworth Avenue. City tried to obtain an enclosed ground in Footscray to take advantage of the growing attendances at football matches in the 1950s but failed to obtain rights to play at Yarraville Oval and McArthur Reserve.

In 1958 City was effectively taken over by the Footscray Capri club led by local restaurateur Vince Staropoli. The search for a

ground continued without success until in 1959 a paddock in Sims Street covered in weeds and industrial waste was proposed by the council. Given their desperation to obtain a ground of their own, Footscray Capri accepted but was then faced with turning a rubbish tip into a stadium. George Cross became interested in joining in the project but did not proceed so Capri began the task of developing the site, which was eventually named after a local councilor, Roy Schintler. Schintler was a third generation Australian of German heritage and he had been an advocate of soccer clubs having their own grounds.

By 1960 Footscray Capri was playing its home games at Schintler Reserve, but the strain on the club had been overwhelming and in 1962 Staropoli came to an agreement with JUST for the latter to take over the lease of the ground. There was still a lot to be done to bring the ground up to standard, and while the Council contributed, the bulk of the work was done by the club and volunteer labour.

The early days of Schintler Reserve were pretty primitive even by the austere standards of the day. Rale Rasic, on arrival from Europe where had a been playing with Grenoble in the French First Division, described it as going from 'the French Riviera to the Stone Age'. But JUST itself was more than a football club, it was a friendly society and welcomed the newcomer with open arms. On the field it was entering its golden age in Victorian football, winning the State League in 1963, 1969, 1971 and 1973, the Dockerty Cup in 1951, 1963 and 1976, the Ampol Cup in 1955, 1956, 1957, 1960 and 1966, the Australian Ampol Cup in 1960 and the State League Cup in 1973, 1974 and 1975. Schintler Re-



Schintler Reserve in 1989, the penultimate season of JUST's tenure of the ground. Photo: Milan Ninovic.

serve seldom had the best playing surface in the league and certainly not the most salubrious surroundings but the quality of the play by JUST compensated for that.

In 1977 the president, Tony Kovac, led JUST into the new National Soccer League and Schintler Reserve was to see some epic battles between JUST and the other powerhouses of the game. In 1986 under iconic coach Drago Sekularac, JUST finished runner-up to Brunswick United Juventus and played in the Southern Division Grand Final against Adelaide City. From then on JUST struggled and was relegated in 1989 and Schintler Reserve went downhill along with

its club.

In 1990 JUST was playing in the Victorian State League with Melbourne City added to its name in a vain attempt to broaden its appeal and catchment. According to Alf Bulic, the last president of JUST, the ground was actually located on land within the City of Melbourne area rather than Footscray. The following season JUST dropped down to Division One in 1991 and the club was effectively taken over by South American interests who lasted until 1994 when they moved to Keilor Park Reserve.

Commercial pressures to take over the ground for logistic or industrial use had always been

strong and eventually prevailed. What was the pavilion and change rooms at the southern end of the ground now forms the administrative offices of the transport company which occupies the site, but that is virtually the only link with the soccer ground.

The passing of Schintler Reserve will not be mourned by many, but in its heyday it was representative of the best and some of the worst of football in Victoria. Some of the most disturbing conflicts between Croatian and Serbian groups occurred at or around the ground, but it also saw the flowering of the careers of many of the best players ever to grace the game in Australia

including Frank Micic, Billy Rice, Tommy Stankovic, Veroslav Mladenovic, Vlado Stosic, Branko Buljevic, Oscar Crino, Mendo Ristovski, Alan Davidson, Ernie Tapai and Ossie Latif.

The early history of Schintler Reserve is brilliantly told by John Kallinikios in his Soccer Boom: The Transformation of Victorian Soccer Culture, 1945-1963, Walla Walla Press, Sydney, 2007, pp. 113-130. The chapter is well titled, 'The saga of a soccer site in Footscray.'

My thanks for John Kallinikios and Milan Ninovic for their help with this column.



JUST in its prime, the 1987 team. Back row, left to right: Drago Sekularac (coach), Oscar Crino, Gary van Egmond, Bill Lazopoulos, Zoran Nikitovic, Tyrone James, Tom Karic, Eddie Campbell. Front row: Zdravko Lujic, Vlado Bozinoski, Sulieman Curovic, Ernie Tapai, Warren Spink, Ossie Latif. Photo: JOHN PUNSHON



Left: Aerial shot of the Schintler Reserve site just across the river in the foreground. Source: Winning Images.

Above: The site of Schintler Reserve in 2006. The building in the foreground is what remains of the football club pavilion.

Latin Wrap



Francis Fields

The month of May is always traditionally a month of madness with our beautiful game. Think it is any different across the Americas? One should consider all the football coverage on television over there whether it is free-to-air or on pay-television, with all the end-of-season climaxes in Europe and all the finals scheduled, there is local, domestic and continental football on top of that. Latin Americans are truly spoiled for choice when choosing football with just a click on the remote control.



BRAZIL
The Campeonato Brasileiro commenced this past weekend

meaning the State championship as covered all have been completed with their respective champions and so forth. Flamengo welcomed the tournament against Avaí and the qualification system means the Brasileiro, the national championship is very well underway with, as always, spectacular football on display and stars to complement.

Also to note, the top three clubs at the end of the season qualify directly to the Copa Santander Libertadores edition for 2012 whilst the 4th place goes into the qualifying stages. For the Copa Nissan Sudamericana 2012, the fifth to 12th placed teams qualify. This is due to the yearly calendar clash as the Brazilian championship continues onto the end of the year hence there is no time to determine the qualifying clubs onto the respective incoming year's tournament, similar to what the A-League does with the AFC's Champions League.

Here's a little preview of what to expect with players to watch in the coming months in the world's longest domestic league, with 38 rounds:

Sao Paulo state clubs:
Corinthians - Liédson (Brazilian born Portuguese international forward)
Sao Paulo - Rogério Ceni (yes, the goalkeeping still does not want to hang his gloves)
Palmeiras - Jorge Valdivia (if the Chilean international star playmaker can overcome his constant injury woes)
Santos - Neymar (of course, there are other prodigies in the club but this young man is in hot form)

Rio de Janeiro clubs:
Fluminense - Dario Conca (the crafty little Argentinean is the Brasileiro's player of the year for both 2009 and 2010)
Flamengo - Ronaldinho (need any introduction? Back in Brazil playing his first Brasileiro with the country's biggest club)
Vasco da Gama - Juninho Pernambucano (he returns home after nine years with Lyon in France and in Qatar)
Botafogo - Sebastián Abreu (the cheeky penalty-taker and Uruguayan international goalscorer is respected and reliable)

Minas Gerais state:
Cruzeiro - Walter Montillo (signed up this year from Universidad de Chile, the Argentinean has been a bargain buy)
Atlético Mineiro - Mancini (the gifted and promising forward is

FC Zamora creates history



FC Zamora players embrace and celebrate its first ever Venezuelan Clausura 2010/11 title last week.

back home from stints at Roma, Inter and Milan)

Rio Grande do Sul state:
Gremio - Fábio Rochemback (Back from Sporting Lisbon for two years now and is a natural leader in the team)
Internacional - Andrés D'Alessandro (the play-maker originally produced from River Plate is much-loved in his 4th season at the club)

Paraná state:
Coritiba - Tcheco (Bought from Corinthians after a loan spell and ready to prove a point or two in his second season)
Atlético Paranaense - Joffre Guérón (the "Dynamite" as nicknamed has switched from a loan deal at Cruzeiro, a real star)

Santa Catarina state:
Avaí - Marquinhos Gabriel (on loan from Internacional, the 20-year old attacking midfielder should shine in tennis great Gustavo Kuerten's supported club)
Figueirense - Maicon Thiago (the 26-year old captain is a leader under legendary defender and coach Jorginho)

Bahía state:
Esporte Clube Bahía - Tressor Moreno (the Colombian international is their new star signing from Independiente de Medellín)

Ceará state:
Ceará - Iarley (this gifted and now veteran midfielder has won everything with Boca Juniors and Internacional now in his second spell)
Atlético Goianiense - Marcão (the forward in the number 27 jersey has scored 75 goals in 68 games with the club)
Note that Palmeiras and Santos have won the most Brazilian national championship titles with 8 a piece followed by São Paulo with six. Flamengo have five though there is controversy as according to the giant club itself, they have six. In 1988, the CBF (Confederation of Brazilian football) officially awarded the title to Bahía whilst Corinthians and Vasco da Gama have won the championship four times.



CHILE
Universidad Católica, the league leaders played last week

it's much-anticipated derby against it's archenemy Universidad de Chile officially at home although the match was played as always

at the National stadium for security reasons and it is where its rival blue team plays its home games so technically the away side was still playing at home. If that makes any sense.

For decades, the club that decorates the blue half of Santiago (and much of the nation) does not own a stadium, believe it or not. They did own much of the second half in the derby that was packed to near capacity. Goals from Eduardo Vargas, a brace inside fifteen minutes of the match almost ensure "la U" the derby and much-needed three points to catch up on its most traditional rival.

Felipe Gutiérrez put a stunning volley for Católica to make 1-1 at the time and it was Milovan Mirosevic once again, the inspirational captain who must have taken inspiration himself after meeting and greeting the legendary Pelé before kick-off while on his official visit putting the match level and all this during the first half. A superb and vivid 'clásico'.

Colo-Colo remains struggling to get a place into the playoffs while all talk ties with their forwards Ezequiel Miralles who is tempted now by Cruzeiro when he has been all the talk of rumours to a move to Gremio but interest in the Argentinean has stalled there and a move to Santos is now imminent this week for US\$2,5 million. His fellow partner up front, Chilean international Esteban Paredes with a brilliant display at the Copa Libertadores has not only interest in the Middle East but also with Brazilian club Gremio whom look set to purchase.



URUGUAY
Last but not least, Australian-born Richard Porta from Nacional has sparked interest in arch-rival Peñarol coach and legend Diego Aguirre according to newspaper El Observador. The former River Plate of Montevideo (not the Buenos Aires giant) player is a priority according to a report as Aguirre looks to boost the already promising squad with commitments in the domestic Uruguayan championship and its subsequent Copa Libertadores.

His assistant in Osvaldo Giménez is in charge of recruiting and the also former AC Milan Uruguayan youth Tabaré Viudez also has caught the eye at the "Manya" club. Remember Richard Porta under current coach Juan Ramón Carrasco at Nacional who lead the championship three points clear of

rival Peñarol and were both four seasons ago at the River Plate club where he scored 19 goals in 15 matches which gave him stints at Siena in Italy's Serie A and Belenenses of Portugal before returning to Montevideo.



VENEZUELA
Little mention is made of Venezuelan domestic football unless a highlighting note comes to mention and the fact that Zamora FC has been crowned champions of the Venezuelan Clausura, the Copa Móvilnet (the opening championship for 2010/11) ending the season atop with 42 points.

The club faced debts, delayed payments in wages although the team stuck through thick and thin and under the guidance of one of the best regarded coaches in the country in José de Jesús "Chuy" Vera. His side pulled up against better opposition, with hard work and humility. Across the Venezuelan football circle and online, it has all the talk from the media about this team that has every potential to consolidate for the following seasons as it also qualified directly to the Copa Libertadores for 2012.

Not only a true fairytale but according to reports and if one can trace on Youtube, a football lesson they gave to its opposing teams throughout the closing 18-team Clausura championship from last year onto this month. The Barinas-based club was unstoppable with the skills and goals from young Colombian forward Jonathan Copete, midfielder Jesús "El chiqui" Meza and fellow striker Juan Vélez.



ARGENTINA
The Boca Juniors v River Plate derby played last week ensured not only that tradition is still intact with the 2-0 win for the Xeneizes at their symbolic La Bombonera stadium. It also ensured that River Plate's exquisite football just isn't enough.

Braces from Pablo Mouche's deflected corner by River goalkeeper Juan Pablo Carrizo and a cheeky header from club legend Martín Palermo denied the Millonarios a chance to claim a stake not only in the fierce clásico but much-needed points as they fight in the overall two-championship standings to avoid relegation.

Juan Román Riquelme did say afterwards to the media he would



The legendary king Pelé on his official visit to Santiago, Chile and opening the clásico derby, shown with respective captains Milovan Mirosevic on the left and José Rojas.

not like to see enemies River Plate relegated for the good of Argentine football. His teammate Martín Palermo on the other keeps writing himself onto the record books with 225 competition goals to date with the club.

Palermo, Boca's record goalscorer, will retire at the end of the season and the Bombonera crowd gave the teary-eyed 37-year-old a prolonged standing ovation when he was substituted in the 72nd minute. Clearly no derby in the world matches this, in atmosphere, in spectacle, in passion and even in football. There are many derbies around the globe but Boca-River is unmatched.

Boca's Clemente Rodríguez and River's captain, former Lazio midfielder Matías Almeyda were sent off after clashing in stoppage time, with a visibly furious Almeyda needing a police escort off the pitch.

The win moved Boca within a point of its archrival in the Clausura standings and seriously dented River's title hopes. With now four matches remaining, River are seventh, with Boca on 21 in eighth. League leaders Vélez Sarsfield remain on top with 27 points and favourites to pick up more.



MEXICO
Due to the time of print, the first-leg of the Mexican Clausura championship can be covered where a scintillating match at Morelos stadium saw the home side Monarcas of Morelia equalise 1-1 to Pumas of UNAM, the National Autonomous University of Mexico (its acronym).

The opening goal saw Pumas take the lead through veteran international and key forward Juan Francisco Palencia with a drive from outside the box. The equaliser arrived finally before the full-time after constant attacking play from Morelia and its reward coming from Rafael Márquez Lugo ensured the return leg with everything to play for.



COPA LIBERTADORES
Quarter-final 2nd leg results:
Santos 1 BRA v Once Caldas 1 COL
Vélez Sarsfield 2 ARG v Libertad 4 PAR
U. Católica 2 CHI v Peñarol 1

URU
Cerro Porteño 1 PAR v Jaguares 0 MEX

Semi final pairings (home and away):

Santos BRA v Cerro Porteño PAR
Peñarol URU v Vélez Sarsfield ARG

Analysis of the quarter finals
The disappointment: Universidad Católica

The Chilean side was finally knocked out of the continental competition. Coach Juan Antonio Pizzi's men had demonstrated great football although their enthusiasm and superb skills was not enough to progress against the guts of Peñarol, despite winning at home in Santiago. The dream has come to an end with only five minutes remaining for a defining penalty shootout after losing the first leg away in Montevideo two goals to nil. A lazy and poor defensive lapse was all it took to bow out.

The best so far: Vélez Sarsfield

The Argentine Clausura leaders under the guidance of sometimes outspoken Ricardo Gareca are without a doubt the side to beat. Leading their domestic league and red-hot favourites for the Copa Libertadores does not mean little. Their tactical formation is disciplined, their attack is lethal, their finishing is sharp and they are in form. The 4-2 away victory to tough Libertad away in Asunción, Paraguay is proof they mean business with a showdown with Uruguay's Peñarol set to have fireworks sparking with tackles sure to be flying in everywhere and attacking football.

The star: Fabián Estoyanoff

This week, the Peñarol attacking wing has returned loud with a bang. For a while disappeared even from the Uruguayan national team, he has worked solidly all year to put himself back into contention not to mention, form with his club side. The defensive mishap from Universidad Católica the former bleached-hair winger to put the ball in the back of the net and sink the Chilean sides hopes as he read the cross well at the right place, at the right time.

A thrilling moment in the tournament to be cementing your place as Peñarol returns to semi-final football in over a decade.



Draws for Sydney Olympic and the Sutherland Sharks meant no change at the top of the NSW Premier League in Round 9. Olympic were held 0-0 at Marconi on Sunday, while the Sharks had scored a late equalizer to grab a point at Rockdale the previous evening.

In other games, Manly bounced back from their midweek thrashing at the hands of Parramatta to take a 2-0 lead against the South Coast Wolves, but the men from Wollongong scored twice in the last six minutes to snare a draw. Blacktown City downed Bonnyrigg 2-0 in a replay of last year's grand final, while Sydney United kept up the pressure on the top two with a 1-0 win over Parramatta. APIA gained a much-needed win at Bankstown City on Saturday evening; details of that fixture can be found below.

Bankstown City 1-2 APIA-Leichhardt

Despite dominating proceedings for much of the game, Bankstown City suffered a demoralizing home loss to APIA-Leichhardt, who thereby moved into the top five.

The hosts began in aggressive fashion and were soon crafting chances for themselves. Daniel Slaveski went close on six minutes after a smooth Bankstown move, and soon afterwards an



The 2011 QSL reached its half-way point over the weekend, give or take a handful of catch-up games for fixtures postponed by bad weather.

Traditional powerhouse club Sunshine Coast Fire continue to run away with the competition, a mammoth seven point clear of their closest challenger. However, beneath them the QSL is in turmoil, QAS occupies second spot on the ladder and six clubs are within five points, the most open season the QSL has seen since it's inception.

This weekend was to be the reverse of the first round of fixtures, meaning Sunshine Coast were scheduled to host Brisbane Strikers in what is the blue ribbon matchup of the league. The last meeting between the two ended in a hard-fought 1-0 win for the Fire, a result that helped propel the Fire to an unbeaten run that seems them standing unopposed at the top of the QSL ladder. Regrettably the match was postponed, as so many others have been this season, due to poor weather and field conditions.

Brisbane are likely the more disappointed of the two teams, coming off consecutive defeats that has seen them fall behind QAS, the Strikers are in need of a win and the biggest lift they could get would be to knock of Sunshine Coast on their own ground.

No Change At The Top As Leaders Draw

error from Chris James allowed Hussein Salameh a run down the left, which ended in a deflected shot which Jose Bello Amigo did well to hold on to in the APIA goal. Salameh had an even better chance a minute later, when Freddie Graham played him in superbly on the left; once again, his left-footed shot was deflected wide.

APIA began to gather themselves as the half wore on, and by the 20-minute mark it wasn't entirely clear who was in the ascendancy. Bankstown did manage another good chance on 24 minutes, Aman Hadid firing into the arms of Bello Amigo, but it was APIA who opened the scoring. Steven Kayes latched onto a miscued Bankstown clearance before playing in Robbie Younis on the left; coolly slipping past his man, the former Adelaide striker advanced confidently and slotted the ball past Zlatko Joseski.

The remainder of the half belonged to the visitors, who kept Bankstown comfortably in check and managed another chance of their own when a cross from Anthony Hartshorn was very nearly deflected into his own net by a Bankstown defender.

Switching to a 3-5-2 formation after the break, Bankstown began the second period strongly. Almost immediately following the restart, Steve Liavas went on a flying run down the right which ended with a vicious cross-shot; Bello Amigo was relieved to see the ball flash just past his far post.

As they did in the first half,



NSW Premier League action between Sydney United and Parramatta Eagles after Michael Cindric scored the winner for the Reds. Photo: CARLOS FURTADO/Courtesy FNSW

APIA managed to get a hold of themselves, and after a relatively insipid period of play they doubled their advantage. Left-back Michael West's overlapping run ended with a cut-back which was fired against the Bankstown bar by Franco Parisi; the ball rebounded to Hartshorn on the right, who sent the ball back into the six-yard area. This time, Parisi made no mistake, burying his header emphatically past Joseski.

Bankstown pressed on. Salameh

had another good chance after 67 minutes, and Hadid's snap-shot from midfield six minutes later took Bello Amigo by surprise, but the APIA keeper managed to push the ball wide.

On 83 minutes the hosts pulled a goal back. Joseski, becoming increasingly adventurous as his side chased the game, floated in a free kick which was flicked on by Lenox Tweneboea. A number of ricochets in the area ensued, and the ball finally ran loose to Salameh, who volleyed into an

unguarded net.

APIA had their goalkeeper to thank for keeping the points secure on 86 minutes, when he made a superb close-range save from defender David Gardiner, up for a set-piece. Gardiner was vouchsafed another shot, but shanked his second effort wide.

That was that, and APIA gained a crucial three points.

NQ Razorbacks Find Form



FNQ Bulls' Joshua De Nittis makes a spalsh as he tries to beat his Gold Coast Stars' John Prugh. The heavens opened before the match delaying kick off with the Stars running out eventual winners 2-1. Photo: ADRIAN GAGLIONE

Coast. After finishing ahead of only Bundaberg Spirit last season, the Miners have rebuilt with an injection of new blood, backed up by local talent. Much of the Miners' attacking plays are being sparked by Jamie White and Jordan Corte on the wings.

White, a product of football-mad Southampton in England, was praised this week as the best winger in the QSL, a claim that is based on

some superb recent performances. The Miners opponents, QAS, have been turning in their own superb performances, entering the match on a five game winning streak that has seen them climb to hitherto unknown heights on the QSL table. With both sides in such good form few would have predicted a one sided result and that's how the match played out, a tight, terse affair that could easily have gone either way.

In the end the three points belonged to QAS, their impressive young frontline that includes the likes of Jacob McLean, Elliot Ronto, Brandon Borello and Kwame Yeboah eventually finding a way a way through the solid Miners defence. The visitors did leave it late, Ronto not not finding the back of the net until added time to secure a 1-0 victory for his side.

NSW Results

ROUND 9: FIRST GRADE:
Bankstown City 1 (Hussein Salameh 84m)
APIA Leichhardt Tigers 2 (Robert Younis 30m
Franco Parisi 60m), Rockdale City Suns 1
(Pece Apolevski 14m pen) Sutherland Sharks 1
(Huseyin Jasli 88m), Manly United FC 2 (Colin Iley 27m Justin Hayward 55m) South Coast
Wolves 2 (John Martinoski 84m Mark Piccolini 88m), Blacktown City FC 2 (Luke Roodenburg 63m Travis Major 93m pen) Bonnyrigg White
Eagles 0, Marconi Stallions 0 Sydney Olympic 0
Sydney United 1 (Michael Cindric 51m) Parramatta Eagles 0.

GRADE 20:
Bankstown City 0 APIA Leichhardt Tigers 3,
Rockdale City Suns 0 Sutherland Sharks 3.
Manly United FC 2 South Coast Wolves 2,
Blacktown City FC 6 Bonnyrigg White Eagles 0,
Marconi Stallions 1 Sydney Olympic 1, Sydney
United 2 Parramatta Eagles 2.

Next Round

Sutherland Sharks vs Bonnyrigg WE
Seymour Shaw Park 7:00 PM Sat 28/May

Rockdale City Suns vs Sydney Olympic
Ilinden Sports Ctr 3:00 PM Sun 29/May

South Coast Wolves vs Blacktown City
John Crehan Park 3:00 PM Sun 29/May

APIA Leichhardt Tigers vs Sydney Utd
Lambert Park 3:00 PM Sun 29/May

Parramatta FC vs Marconi Stallions
Melita Stadium 3:00 PM Sun 29/May

Manly United FC vs Bankstown City
Cromer Park 4:00 PM Sun 29/May

Standings

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
1 Sydney Olympic	9	6	1	2	19	8	11	20
2 Sutherland Sharks	9	5	0	4	13	8	5	19
3 Sydney United	9	5	2	2	17	9	8	17
4 APIA Leichhardt	9	3	3	3	13	14	-1	12
5 Blacktown City FC	9	3	4	2	11	10	1	11
6 Manly United FC	9	2	2	5	15	18	-3	11
7 Rockdale City	9	3	4	2	7	12	-5	11
8 Marconi Stallions	9	2	3	4	8	8	0	10
9 Bonnyrigg WE	9	2	3	4	11	12	-1	10
10 Bankstown City	9	3	5	1	12	16	-4	10
11 South Coast W	9	3	5	1	10	16	-6	10
12 Parramatta FC	9	1	6	2	9	14	-5	5

Queensland Results

Whitsunday Miners 0 v Qld Academy
Sport 1 (Ronto 90)

NQ Razorbacks 5 (Crowley 37, Navarro 73 89, Edwards 75, Hay 77) v Bundaberg Spirit 0

Gold Coast Stars 2 v FNQ Bulls 1

Sunshine Coast Fire v Brisbane Strikers
(Match postponed)

Next Round

QAS v Brisbane Strikers
Sat 28-May 6:00pm

Capricorn Cougars v Gold Coast Stars
Sat 28-May 7:00pm

FNQ Bulls v Whitsunday Miners
Sat 28-May 8:00pm

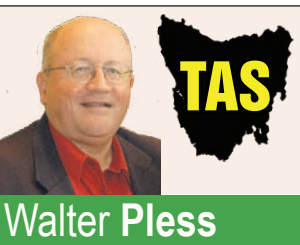
Sunshine Coast FC v NQ Razorbacks
Sun 29-May 2:00pm

Bundaberg Spirit v BYE

Standings

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
1 Sunshine Coast FC	8	6	2	0	29	4	25	20
2 Qld AoS	8	3	4	1	14	9	5	13
3 Brisbane Strikers	7	4	0	3	18	9	9	12
4 NQ Razorbacks	9	3	3	3	21	13	8	12
5 Gold Coast Stars	7	3	2	2	9	10	-1	11
6 FNQ Bulls	7	2	3	2	12	10	2	9
7 Whitsunday Miners	7	2	3	2	7	8	-1	9
8 Bundaberg Spirit	8	1	1	6	7	29	-22	4
9 Capricorn Cougars	7	0	2	5	7	32	-25	2

State-wide Cup Quarter finalists decided



Three Northern and five Southern Tasmanian clubs have made it through to the quarterfinals of the Milan Lakoseljac Memorial Trophy State-wide competition.

Northern Rangers, Devonport City and Burnie United are the representatives from the North, while Southern clubs South Hobart, who are the holders, Olympia Warriors, Glenorchy Knights, Tilford Zebras and Taroona will join them in the quarterfinal draw.

Taroona are the only second-tier side to survive. They did very well to eliminate Northern Premier League outfit Riverside Olympic 2-1 at home at Kelvedon Park through goals by Ruaidhri Carey and David Hoppitt. Will Guy netted for the visitors.

Northern Rangers downed fierce rivals Prospect Knights 2-1 away at Prospect Park through a first-half penalty by Andrew Nicholson and a second-half free-kick by Sam Luck, while Matthew Sessay scored the Knights' consolation goal which made it 1-1 at the interval.

The visiting Burnie United overcame southern League One outfit Nelson Eastern Suburbs 3-1 at North Warrane.

Devonport City thrashed Launceston United 7-0 at a fogbound Valley Road on Friday night.

The home side led 2-0 at the interval

through goals by Jordan Douce and Grant Ashdown.

Ashdown netted another after the break, while Chris McKenna scored twice and Robert McDonald and Kieren Mulraney once each to complete the victory.

"We finally scored some goals, but we had a hell of a lot more chances than we put away," said Devonport striker, McKenna.

"It was very foggy and it was probably touch and go whether the game would go ahead."

South Hobart easily overcame Kingborough Lions United at home at South Hobart.

Goals by Jonathon Lo and Tom Roach gave South Hobart a 2-0 lead at the interval, while two goals by Andy Brennan and one by Luke Huigsloot completed the victory.

Liam Scott, who returned to South Hobart after a short stint at Tilford Zebras, came on as a substitute during the second half.

Olympia Warriors did well to beat the visiting Ulverstone 3-0 at Warriors Park.

Harry Woolley headed Olympia in front from a corner, but they then had Irish recruit Domhnall Corbett sent off for using an expletive within earshot of spectators.

Olympia shrugged off the set-back and Chris Kumpulainen made it 2-0 within minutes, but they must have been relieved when Ulverstone then had Dallas Baldock sent off for standing on an opponent's leg after both players fell to the ground after a tackle for the ball.

With both sides down to ten men, youngster Ben Phillips netted Olympia's third before the break to confirm the home side's superiority.

Glenorchy Knights confirmed their



South Hobart's Shae Hickey (left) challenges Kingborough's Ben Watkins for the ball. Photo: WALTER PLESS

revival under new coach Ahmed Abdaltam when they beat New Town Eagles, who are second on the Premier League ladder, in a penalty shoot-out at KGV Park on Saturday night after they drew 2-2 after extra-time.

South Korean import Yeong-Sun Jo gave Eagles the lead from the penalty spot in the 18th minute after he had been brought down by the Knights' Frenchman, Matthieu Gregoire.

Gregoire atoned for his error when he equalised in the 28th minute after Corey Smith's free-kick from the left was not dealt with by the Eagles defence.

Callen Griffin put Knights ahead in the 36th minute, but Michael Ander-

son made it 2-2 on the stroke of half-time following a corner.

Neither side could score in the second half, while Andrew Robb missed a glorious chance to give the Knights victory in the first period of extra-time when he failed from close range after a pass down the left by Griffin and an inch-perfect cross from Smith.

With the teams level at 2-2 after 120 minutes, a penalty shoot-out was required to settle the issue.

Penalties converted by Gregoire, Jacob Huigsloot, Smith, Matthew Nowicki and goalkeeper Ben Peter gave Knights a 5-3 win in the shoot-out as only Jo, Adam McKeown and Andrew Clark netted for Eagles. Jamie

Vernon fired against the crossbar and Eagles were out of the competition.

A 5th-minute header by Luke Cripps, from Andrew Telega's cross, gave Tilford Zebras a 1-0 win over Clarence United at KGV Park on Saturday night in the second fixture of the double-header.

Cripps should have had another goal in the 12th minute, but he produced an incredible miss from close-range.

Zebras goalkeeper Troy Kaden kept his team's lead intact when he blocked an Emmanuel Tsakiris effort midway through the first half.

Clarence badly missed two of their South Korean imports, Seung Woo Park and Kyu Jun Kim, both of whom were injured, while Nathan Rees was also a notable absentee.

They introduced Ben Hamlett, who has returned on holidays from American college football, but he was not able to turn the game in their favour after coming on with half an hour remaining.

Clarence's young Italian exchange student, Ben Masocolo, came on with 20 minutes remaining. He has only recently recovered from a serious leg injury.

Zebras were without Jonathon Ladice and Brett Andrews and fielded three former Clarence players in Cripps, Sam McIntyre and Dwayne Walsh.

Southern Division										
	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts			
South Hobart FC	10	8	2	0	36	12	26			
New Town Eagles	10	6	3	1	23	12	21			
Clarence United	10	6	2	2	20	21	20			
Tilford Zebras	09	4	3	2	21	15	15			
Kingborough Lions	10	4	0	6	19	25	12			
Glenorchy Knights	10	1	3	6	15	27	6			
Beachside FC	09	1	2	6	10	20	5			
Olympia FC	10	1	1	8	17	29	4			



Campbelltown made light work of Sturt Lion thrashing the State League outfit 12-0 at Steve Woodcock Sports Centre on Saturday.

Player-coach Jason Trimboli nailed four for the Red Devils while flyer Michael Paleka and Raff Frisina both bagged doubles.

Oliver Totani, Matthew Deegan, Michael Menechella and Toby Nelson all got on the score sheet as Campbelltown piled on eight second half goals to complete the rout.

Totani, Menechella and Deegan all starred for Campbelltown while Aaron Noble, Sandy Neary and Michael Bourke were Sturt's best.

Adelaide Blue Eagles also advanced to the second round after a 2-0 defeat of State League side South Adelaide at O'Sullivan's Beach Sports Complex.

Veteran Gianluca Lagati and Chad Bugeja got on the score sheet either side of half time to help the Super League outfit progress.

ABE skipper and shot stopper Gino De Lucia was his side's best with Lagati and defender Chris Atsikbatsis also impressive.

South Adelaide's best were Robert Parker, James Dean and Thomas Foglia.

Adelaide City extended their perfect start to the season with their ninth consecutive victory after downing Adelaide Cobras 4-1 at Adelaide City Park.

Jace Cummins, Jono Negus, Nick Budin and coach Damian Mori all got on the score sheet for Adelaide City who raced to a 3-0 half time lead.

Adrian Aufiero grabbed a consolation for the Cobras in the second half with keeper Nick Crossley in outstanding form despite conceding four goals.

Michael Cavallaro and Paul Karritevis were also amongst the best for Cobras while Negus, Budin and Nicky Orr starred for Adelaide City.

Modbury thrashed Gambier Sharks Soccer Club 7-0 in the first of the double-header in Mount Gambier on Saturday.

Todd McSorely and Shane Pearce both scored twice while Chris Dean and Adrian Giacomelli also got on the score sheet,

Federation Cup gets into full swing



Adelaide Comets keeper Rick Borgas attempts to collect the ball against Para Hills. Photos: ADAM BUTLER

with Gambier putting one into their own net to complete the rout.

David Crawl was outstanding for the Jet with McSorely and Giacomelli also collecting votes for their performances.

In the second match, MetroStars also posted a monster score, thrashing Apollo Soccer Club 12-0.

The Mount Gambier-based club were no match for the Super League side with striker Francesco Monterosso scoring four and Michael Matricciani bagging a hat-trick.

Scott Tunbridge, Jackson Groves, James Yong and Adam van Dommele all got on the score sheet as did keeper Daniel God-

ley who coolly converted a spot kick.

Metro Captain Lee Robertson was best on ground along with Godley, while coach and former Adelaide United midfielder David Terminello also starred after pulling on the boots for the first time in a year.

Adelaide Galaxy dumped State League side Northern Demons out of the Coca-Cola Amatil Federation Cup after Round 1 with a 6-0 victory at Con Makris Park. The Port-Pirie based side battle resiliently for the opening half hour but couldn't contain their Super League opponents and the floodgates opened after conceding the first goal.

In form striker Kodi Madeley scored a hat-trick while Shaun McGreevy bagged a double and Jake Markham also got on the score sheet.

Tom Dittmar was a standout for the home side as did Scott Weidenbach and Tom Briscoe.

Northern Demons best were Jarrad George, Chris Annese and Antony Introna.

Raiders were forced to fight back from a goal down to defeat Premier League opponent Adelaide Hills 3-1 in at the Hawks Nest.

Sam Bowman opened the scoring for the home side and helped the Hawks to a 1-0

lead at the break.

But, Shannon Claridge bagged a brace and Matthew Muscroft also found the back of the net in the second half for Raiders.

Charlie Bowman was Hills' best with Nathan Elliot and keeper Carl Robinson also collecting votes for their efforts in the loss.

Raiders best were Daniel Hain, Dan Atkins and Kingsley Francis.

Western Strikers also recorded a huge Round 1 victory and sealed their passage to the second stage when they thumped State League opponent Seaford 7-2 at Karingal Reserve.

Strikers' Cameroon goal machine Calvin Mbarga smashed four past Seaford, while captain Michele La Stella grabbed a double in a man-of-the-match performance.

Tom Maricic also got on the score sheet as well as collecting votes for his performance with Eritrean international Samuel Tesfagabr impressive in midfield.

Seaford striker Faustin Machochi continued his impressive form in front of goal with a pair and best-on-ground honours for his side.

Scott Gannon and Adam Kolar were also amongst the best for Seaford as they were overpowered by their Super League opposition.

Croydon also advanced past Round 1 of the Coca-Cola Amatil Federation Cup after downing Premier League opponent Playford City 4-1 at Polonia Park on Saturday.

Konrad Kosznik scored twice for the Kings with Alemayo Kabede and Matthew Hiern also finding the back of the net.

Ben De Bono grabbed a second half consolation goal for the Patriots.

Frank Violi starred for the home side with Kabede and Andrew Harous also impressive in Croydon's victory.

Standings										
	P	W	D	L	For	Ag	GD	Pts		
1 Adelaide City	6	6	0	0	20	3	17	0	18	
2 Adelaide Galaxy	6	4	2	0	12	4	8	1	14	
3 Metro Stars	7	4	1	2	16	6	10	0	13	
4 Adelaide BE	7	3	2	2	8	8	0	0	11	
5 Croydon	7	3	2	2	7	7	0	0	11	
6 Western Strikers	7	3	0	4	9	8	1	0	9	
7 Campbelltown	7	2	2	3	6	8	-2	0	8	
8 Raiders	7	1	1	5	9	13	-4	0	4	
9 Para Hills	7	1	1	5	5	13	-8	0	4	
10 Modbury	7	1	1	5	5	27	-22	0	4	

Forestry Tasmania Results										
Statewide Lakoseljac Cup										
Taroona 2										
Riverside Olympic 1										
Tilford Zebras 1										
Clarence United FC 0										
South Hobart 5										
Kingborough Lions 0										
Olympia FC Warriors 3										
Ulverstone 0										
Prospect Knights 1										
Northern Rangers 2										
Devonport City 7										
Launceston United 0										

Next Round										
Southern Premier League										
Friday 27th May 2011										
Glenorchy Knights v Olympia FC										
KGV Park 08:00 PM										
Saturday 28th May 2011										
Clarence United v Tilford Zebras										
Wentworth Park 2 06:30 PM										
New Town Eagles v South Hobart FC										
Clare Street 02:30 PM										
Sunday 29th May 2011										
Beachside FC v Kingborough Lions										
Sandown Park 1 02:30 PM										
Northern Premier League										
Saturday 28th May 2011										
Devonport City v Northern Rangers										
Valley Road 02:30 PM										
Burnie United v Launceston United										
Montello 02:30 PM										
Riverside Olympic v Ulverstone										
Windsor Park 02:30 PM										
Launceston City v Prospect Knights										
Mitsubishi Park 02:30 PM										
Somerset Bye										

Northern Division										
	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts			
Northern Rangers	7	5	1	1	18	6	16			
Prospect Knights	7	5	1	1	15	7	16			
Devonport City	7	5	0	2	19	15	15			
Ulverstone	7	4	1	2	20	12	13			
Launceston City	7	3	2	2	14	12	11			
Riverside Olympic	7	3	1	3	14	14	10			
Somerset	8	2	0	6	11	19	6			
Burnie United	7	2	0	5	9	18	6			
Launceston United	7	0	0	7	13	30	0			

FFSA Results

Coca-Cola Amatil Federation Cup

Round 1 – Results

South Adelaide 0 v Adelaide Blue Eagles
 (Gianluca Lagati, Chad Bugeja) (HT 0-1)
 Western Toros 1 (Adrian Cazzetta) v Cumberland United 2 (Robert Macdonald, Alor Bulabek) (HT 1-1)

Campbelltown City 12 (Jason Trimboli 4, Michael Paleka 2, Raff Frisina 2, Oliver Totani, Matthew Deegan, Toby Nelson, Michael Menechella) v Sturt Lion 0 (HT 0-4)

Adelaide City 4 (Jace Cummings, Jono Neagu, Nick Budin, Damian Mori) v Adelaide Cobras 1 (Adrian Aufiero) (HT 3-0)

Apollo Soccer Club 0 v MetroStars 12
 (Frank Monterosso 4, Michael Matricciani 3, Daniel Godley, Scott Tunbridge, Jackson Groves, Adam van Dommele, James Yong) (HT 0-7)

Seaford 2 (Faustin Machochi 2) v Western Strikers 7 (Calvin Mbaraga 4, Michele La Stena 2, Tom Maricic) (HT 0-4)

Croydon 4 (Konrad Kosznik 2, Alemayo Kabede, Matthew Hiern) v Playford City 1 (Ben De Bono) (HT 2-0)

Adelaide Olympic 3 (Saranti Parissos 2, Martin Talbot) v West Adelaide 4 (Zac Walker 2, Aaron Westervelt, Yianni Sarris) (HT 0-1)

Adelaide Comets 1 (Tumba Ssuma) v Para Hills 1 (Jordan Elsey) (HT 0-0) (FT 1-1) (AET 1-1) Adelaide Comets won 4-3 on penalties

Adelaide Galaxy 6 (Kodi Madeley 3, Shaun McGreevy 2, Jake Markham) v Northern Demons 0 (HT 2-0)

Enfield City 3 (Angelo Arambatsis, Srđan Jovanovic, Mohammed Nazari) v The Cove 3 (Jack Prance, Euan Cunningham, Emily Hughes) (HT 1-0) (FT 3-3) (AET 3-3) The Cove won 5-4 on penalties

Salisbury United 3 (Scott Lindsey, Andrew Lindsey, Angus Ducker) v Rostrevor Old Collegians Soccer Club 1 (Not Supplied) (HT 1-1) (FT 1-1) (AET 3-1)

Adelaide Hills 1 (Sam Bowman) v Raiders 3 (Shannon Claridge 2, Matthew Muscroft) (HT 1-0)

White City 3 Alex Jackson 2, Paolo Crisci, v Pirates 2 Mohammed Konneh, Michael Markham (HT – Not Provided)

Knights Lack Cutting Edge



The Western Knights travelled to Balcatta sitting third on the ladder and desperate for a win to close the gap on their table topping hosts and give themselves a realistic chance of claiming the League Premiership for the third year in a row.

The Knights came out and created the first real chance in the 8th minute, when the back from injury, Glen Thomas found Simon Versaico down the right, Versaico drew the defender and then slipped the ball inside to Thomas, who tried to side foot the ball home from the edge of the box, and could only curse as his weak effort was easily cleared.

Within five minute Thomas had another chance. Following a patient build up from the back Thomas found himself in behind the defence, and running into the penalty area, instead of pulling the trigger he tried to find Montgomery to his left, but laid the ball behind the Knights' playmaker.

In the 26th minute it was the same two players who ripped apart the Balcatta defence. Breaking out of defence the impressive Ryan Shackleton found Montgomery, running across the penalty area he found Thomas with a wonderful reverse pass. Thomas shaped to shoot but the despairing tackle from Tong saw the ball deflected and again Balcatta cleared.

The Knights must have gone in at half time wondering what they had do to score, as they had dominated the first half, Siddall in goal only having to make

one save from long range.

Balcatta were a different side at the start of the second half, with far better movement and a greater energy about their game, but again it was the Knights who carved out the first opening.

In the 57th minute Montgomery played a sublime ball in behind the defence into the path of Branimir Mikulic, he rounded the advancing keeper Matt Italiano, and then falling away shot towards the empty net. However his shot struck the upright and came back away from goal. Within two minutes it looked like Balcatta must score as Daniel Neiderberger found himself one on one with Fraser Siddall, but the Knights' keeper did well to block at the edge of his box. The ball however spun to Ashley Rosindale at the edge of the penalty area, and he deliberately picked his spot, but Siddall retreating managed to save with his legs and the Knights cleared.

A minute later and from the clearance Mikulic flicked the ball on, and Thomas found himself with just the keeper to beat, which he did with relative ease, but then somehow lifted his shot over the Balcatta crossbar.

In the 66th minute the deadlock was broken, Steve Burton received the ball from Spencer Harris in what appeared to be a blatantly offside position; the linesman later claiming that Stuart Ferguson played him onside. Burton advanced on Siddall's goal, but again the Knights' stopper stood tall and blocked, but the ball spun up in the air and across the face of goal. The first to react was Ashley Rosindale at the back post, who hammered the ball into an empty net.

The goal knocked the stuffing out of the Knights and suddenly they looked a team bereft of ideas, as Balcatta's confidence picked up. In the 77th minute they doubled their lead.

Siddall came of his line to punch a corner, but using both fists his punch lacked power. Balcatta claimed the loose ball, and Daniel Micevski tried a mazy run



Cockburn City midfielder Michael Grigo and Armadale defender Matt Bennion in action at Alfred Skeet Oval.

Photo: PETER SIMCOX

into the box, but was thwarted. The ball came back to Spencer Harris who struck his shot on the angle, Siddall saved at his near post, but the ball hit the post and ran behind him. Burton pounced and poked it over the line and the Knights were as good as finished.

They did pull a consolation goal back in the 86th minute when Mikulic turned back the clock and ran at the defence with some purpose. Tong blocked him and conceded a throw in. This was taken quickly, and substitute Daniel Trim laid the ball off cleverly to Montgomery who fired into the bottom corner.

In the last minute Jason Barrera should

have sealed it for Balcatta but was denied by a superb one handed save from Siddall, and with the last kick of the game Daniel Trim turned in the box and shot for the Knights but Italiano saved easily.

Balcatta coach Michael Roki conceded 'it wasn't pretty' and said the Knights put them under more pressure than any other side this season, but on this display the Knights lack the cutting edge and imagination to be able to claim their third consecutive Premiership.

In other games Ante Kovacevic's Floreat Athena made it back to back wins after coming from behind to beat in form

Inglewood United away from home 3-2. Perth Glory's Victor Sikora making his debut for Athena.

Armadale thumped bottom of the table Cockburn City 4-0, which would have been hardly the start new coach Mick Lyons would have been looking for and adds to their relegation woes. Perth came from behind to take all three points against Sorrento with a 2-1 win, while the NTC had their first win of the season over ECU Joondalup; however their games are not worth any points. Stirling Lions play host to Mandurah City in the Sunday fixture.

Wells Hits Five As Blue Devils Find Form



Belconnen United midfielder Dustin Wells stole the show at McKellar Park on Saturday evening by claiming a personal haul of five goals as the Blue Devils recorded a 6-2 victory over Monaro Panthers.

Wells' goalscoring feats warmed the hearts of the hardy souls that braved freezing temperatures in the nation's capital to see whether Steve Forshaw's team could register a much needed three points after losing to arch-rivals Canberra FC a week ago.

Wells had the perfect answer to any Belconnen critics bagging a four-goal haul by the interval to give his team a 4-1 advantage. The former New Zealand Knights Hyundai A-League player had already slotted in from close range early on before he completed a wonderfully slick Belconnen move with a brilliant lob for 2-0. A curler into the far post after cutting in from the flank racked up the hat-trick goal and, when the Blue Devils were awarded a penalty, there was little doubt that the man of the moment would add a fourth goal.

A header from Mark Shields, his ninth goal of the season, had the Panthers on the board by half-time but a cracking half-volley from Nicky Rogers killed off any slim hopes of an unlikely comeback in the second half. Geoff Howarth did find the net



ACT action between Canberra FC and Canberrra Olympic. Adam Spaleta and Victor Yanes on the ball for CFC. Photos: NICK GUOTH

for the visitors with a stunning long-range effort but, as was his wont for most of the clash, Wells had the final say scoring his fifth and his team's sixth to round off a superb all-round display from the home team who look to be almost back to their best with David Aranz and Elliot Zwangobani performing brilliantly on the night.

In the top-of-the-table clash between Canberra FC and Canberra Olympic at O'Connor Enclosed it was the league leaders, Canberra FC, who emerged triumphant putting on yet another

masterclass in dismantling their previously unbeaten opponents 5-0. Paul Ivanic led the way with a hat-trick whilst Victor Yanes took his season goal tally to eight with a well-taken brace. Indeed, if it hadn't been for some goal-keeping heroics by Olympic's James Bradbury who made several stunning saves, the result may have been even heavier in favour of the visitors.

Olympic did threaten on occasion, the closest when Daniel Barac saw his second half header cleared off the line, but Ben Klug



was the equal to any sporadic Olympic breakaways and, with Izach Clements hardly putting a foot wrong all afternoon, Canberra FC were convincing, and worthy, winners to remain 100% with four wins from four.

A solitary goal from Nikola Taneski was enough for Canberra City to edge past Tuggeranong United on the synthetic turf of Hawker Football Centre and move his team up into third place after four rounds of Rock Premier League action. Taneski struck in the first half to give City the lead

but a strong Tuggeranong performance may have yielded a point. The visiting team had strong appeals for a penalty tuned away when Alex Weber was pole axed by City 'keeper James Ward after lobbing the advancing custodian but the shouts were waved away.

At Cookbundoon Goulburn Strikers miserable season continued as they leaked a dozen goals to Woden Valley who, along with Canberra FC, have a 100% winning ratio from their three matches played to date. Paul Gagetti led the scoring with a hat-trick whilst

All Flags WA Results
First Team Inglewood Utd 2 (Clarke 9, Geddes 88) Floreat Athena 3 (Moran 13, M Van Dongen 62, Boland 81); Armadale 4 (Barlow 23, J Robinson 50, 88, OG 82) Cockburn City 0; Perth SC 2 (Oliveira 67, Naumovski 88) Sorrento 1 (Foster 44); ECU Joondalup 1 (McMurray 30p) NTC 2 (Vittiglia 57, Ghazali 92); Balcatta 2 (Rosindale 66, Burton 77) Western Knights 1 (Montgomery 86).
Reserves Inglewood Utd 1 Floreat Athena 0; Armadale 0 Cockburn City 6; Perth SC 1 Sorrento 2; ECU Joondalup 0 NTC 3; Balcatta 1 Western Knights 0.
Under 18's Inglewood Utd 4 Floreat Athena 2; Armadale 1 Cockburn City 3; Perth SC 4 Sorrento 3; ECU Joondalup 4 NTC 3; Balcatta 4 Western Knights 2.

Next Round
Floreat Athena FC v Cockburn City <i>E&D Litis Stadium 3:00 PM Sat 28/May</i> ECU Joondalup v Inglewood United <i>Joondalup Football Stm 3:00 PM Sat 28/May</i> Bayswater City v Armadale SC <i>Frank Drago Res 3:00 PM Sat 28/May</i> Mandurah City v Perth SC <i>Hyundai Stadium 3:00 PM Sat 28/May</i> Western Knights v Sorrento FC <i>Nash Field 3:00 PM Sat 28/May</i> Balcatta SC v Stirling Lions <i>Grindelford Reserve 3:00 PM Sun 29/May</i>

All Flags WA Premier League								
	P	W	D	L	For	Ag	Gd	
1 Balcatta	11	9	0	2	30	12	18	
2 Perth SC	11	8	1	2	26	13	13	
3 Western Knights	11	6	2	3	18	17	1	
4 Inglewood United	11	6	1	4	32	22	10	
5 Sorrento	11	6	1	4	18	16	2	
6 Floreat Athena	11	4	2	5	17	19	-2	
7 ECU Joondalup	11	4	2	5	13	21	-8	
8 Bayswater City	11	3	3	5	17	21	-4	
9 Mandurah City	10	3	2	5	9	11	-2	
10 Stirling Lions	10	3	2	5	14	18	-4	
11 Armadale	11	3	1	7	15	19	-4	
12 Cockburn City	11	1	1	9	12	32	-20	

ACT Results
Belconnen UNITED 6 (Dustin Wells (5), Nicky Rogers) Monaro Panthers 2 (Mark Shields, Geoff Howarth)
Canberra Olympic 0 Canberra FC 5 (Paul Ivanic 12', 49', 53', Victor Yanes 25', 45')
Canberra City 1 (Nikola Taneski) Tuggeranong United 0
Goulburn Strikers 0 Woden Valley 12 (Paul Gagetti 7', 22', 80', Hector Alamos 12', Lachlan Nichols 40', Alex Oloriegbe 52', Mouad Zwed 72', 81', Micah Johnson 74', 85', Simon Hinde 79', Ben Pagetti 87')

Next Round
TUFC v Belconnen United <i>Kambah 2-1 3:00 PM Sat 28/May</i>
Canberra FC v Cooma SC <i>Deakin Stadium 3:00 PM Sun 29/May</i>
Monaro v Canberra Olympic <i>Riverside Stadium 3:00 PM Sun 29/May</i>
Woden Valley v Canberra City <i>Woden Park 3:00 PM Sun 29/May</i>
BYE v Goulburn Strikers

ACT Standings								
	P	W	D	L	For	Ag	Gd	
1 Canberra FC	4	4	0	0	31	4	+27	
2 Woden Valley	3	3	0	0	18	1	+17	
3 Canberra City	4	3	0	1	9	5	+4	
4 Belconnen United	4	2	0	2	14	10	+4	
5 Canberra Olympic	3	2	0	1	8	7	+1	
6 Monaro Panthers	4	1	0	3	17	11	+6	
7 Tuggeranong United	3	1	0	2	8	6	+2	
8 Cooma Tigers	3	0	0	3	2	13	-11	
9 Goulburn Strikers	4	0	0	4	1	51	-50	

there were doubles for Mouad Zwed and Micah Johnson. Hector Alamos and Lachlan Nichols had added to Gagetti's first half brace as Woden led 4-0 at the interval and, after the break, further goals came at regular intervals with Alex Oloriegbe and Simon Hinde netting before Ben Pagetti struck late on.

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PRESIDENT'S LUNCH
SATURDAY 28th MAY – 12.30pm

GUEST SPEAKERS
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PETER BEDFORD – (BROWNLOW MEDALLIST – “SWANS HALL OF FAMER”)

TICKETS ONLY \$20 (INCLUDES MATCH ENTRY)
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WAG OF THE WEEK



Lauren Budd Age: 21
Scored with John Carew (Aston Villa)

Couch Potato Dept.
* ALL TIMES ARE AEST



SBS ONE
Monday 22nd May
4:30 pm FIFA Futbol Mundial
11:30 pm The World Game

Sunday May 29th
04:15 AM UEFA Champions League Final: Barcelona v Manchester United - **Live from Wembley Stadium, London**

Sunday May 29th
10:30 AM Football Asia - Provides the latest news and updates of the various football leagues across Asia. (Sport)

11:00 AM Les Murray's Football Feature - UEFA Champions League Final: Barcelona v Manchester United. Highlights from Wembley Stadium, London. (Sport)

12:00 PM FIFA Futbol Mundial - Weekly football magazine show that travels the globe to bring you the stars of today, the talents of tomorrow and the heroes of the past.

SBS TWO
Monday May 22nd
09:30 PM The World Game

PREMIER LEAGUE LIVE
Monday 23 May All matches kick-off at 1.00 am EST.
Studio hosted coverage on Fox Sports 2 from 12.30 am EST.

•One game LIVE on Fox Sports 2 (Channels 204 / 502)
•One game LIVE on Fox Sports News (Channel 513) at 12.55 am EST
•Four other matches LIVE via Viewers Choice (Channel 502 only)

Aston Villa v Liverpool Fox 2
Bolton v Manchester City Viewers Choice
Manchester United v Blackpool Viewers Choice
Tottenham v Birmingham Viewers Choice
Wolves v Blackburn Viewers Choice
Stoke v Wigan Fox Sports News

NOTE
Fulham v Arsenal
Everton v Chelsea

*Plan is to show the second half of one of these matches on Fox Sports 1 (approximately 2.00 am EST).
The decision on which match will be broadcast will be at the discretion of the studio producer on the night.*

Coverage may be affected if live World Matchplay golf runs past it's scheduled finish time (2.00 am EST).

ENGLISH FOOTBALL LEAGUE
Play Offs Final

Sat May 28 League Two Final 11.30 pm
Sun May 29 League One Final 11.30 pm
Mon May 30 Championship Final 11.30 pm

Tuesday 24th May
06:00 am Serie A Matchday 38: Lecce V Lazio

Wednesday 25th May
01:00 am Liverpool TV Aston Villa V Liverpool
06:00 am Arsenal TV Fulham V Arsenal

Thursday 26th May
02:30 am Serie A (Rpt) Matchday 38: Inter Milan V Catania
04:30 am The Serie A Highlights Show Matchday 38
05:00 am Liverpool TV (Rpt) Aston Villa V Liverpool
08:00 am The Serie A Highlights Show (Rpt) Matchday 38

Monday 23-May
Serie A Final Round
Udinese v AC Milan 4:40am **LIVE**
Juventus v Napoli 7am Delay
Roma v Sampdoria 8:45am Delay
Palermo v Chievo 10:30am Delay
Brescia v Fiorentina 3:15pm Delay
Cagliari v Parma 11:45pm Delay

Tuesday 24-May
Bologna v Bari 1:30am Delay
Genoa v Cesena 4:15am Delay

Wednesday 25-May
Nations Cup Republic of Ireland v Northern Ireland 4:40am **LIVE**

Thursday 26-May
Nations Cup
Wales v Scotland 4:40am **LIVE**
Copa Libertadores Semi-Final 1st leg 10:55am **LIVE**

Friday 27-May
League of Ireland
Dundalk v Derry 4:30am **LIVE**
Copa Libertadores Semi-Final 1st leg 10:55am **LIVE**

Saturday 28-May
Nations Cup
Wales v Northern Ireland 4:40am **LIVE**

Sunday 29-May
J-League
Sanfrece Hiroshima v Kashima 7:55pm **LIVE**

Monday 30-May
Nations Cup
Republic of Ireland v Scotland 3:25am **LIVE**
Coppa Italia Final
Palermo v Inter 5:30am Delay

Thursday 2-June
Copa Libertadores
Semi-Final 2nd Leg 10:45am **LIVE**

Friday 3-June
Copa Libertadores
Semi-Final 2nd Leg 10:45am **LIVE**

Saturday 4-June
Euro 2012 Qualifier
Croatia v Georgia 4:00am **LIVE**

Sunday 5-June
Euro 2012 Qualifier
England v Switzerland 1:15am **LIVE**
Euro 2012 Qualifier
FYR Macedonia v Republic of Ireland 5:25am **LIVE**

The Futbol Town Show
Every Tuesday 7pm

Extra Time Magazine Show
Every Tuesday 7.30pm

SMFC TV
Channel 31
Every Wed 7pm

The Green Gully Football Show
Every Saturday 10.30am

Wireless FC

Global Football Show
Jacob Kagi and Ian Hooper discuss local, national and international football every Thursday night from 7.30-9pm on WA's SportFM 91.3.

The Four Diegos
Monday to Thursday 11pm
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LONDON CALLING



With Leroy Robinson in the UK

For many players, the last game of the season is an exercise in keeping injury-free for exerting stints on the beach. So it was no surprise this week has been dominated by surreal transfer stories. Most seemed to involve Manchester City and Real Madrid, with CR7 reportedly due to make a £150m move to Eastlands, on £300,000 a week. Kaka has also been the subject of much speculation, though he did announce he would be staying in Madrid, presumably because even City are not daft enough to pay £60m for his services.

Horse Sense?
However, if there was one story that summed up what is currently wrong with English football its the allegation that Ruud ‘Horse Face’ van Nistelrooy might be coming back to English football. Leaving aside the fact he is 34 and well past his prime, he’ll command, according to the media, a salary of £60,000 a week.
When guys like Freddie Ljungberg and Thierry Henry turned their back on Europe to move to the MLS, some turned up their noses, calling the States a retirement home for has-beens. Maybe this is true maybe it isn’t, what is true is that RvN was a great striker and, should the move go ahead, its a stunning piece of business for his agent and for RvN. The interested club are said to be Sunderland.

From that point of view, its a move that makes no sense on the player’s part, unless money is his only consideration. When he went to Hamburg there was the realistic goal of UCL football. But at Sunderland he will not win a trophy next season, they will not get relegated and they will not break into the top six. Wear-side is a footballing state of suspended animation.

For his part, the Dutchman

has started 28 games over 2 seasons and scored 16 goals, a decent return you may say. You’d be right and, to be fair, he’s scored goals wherever he’s been.

However, he’s also injury prone and at £3m a year that’s a huge gamble and for what? To have a decent cup run and break into the to 10! Its hard to see how this signing (if it happened) would fit in with their ambitions. They have Asamoah Gyan and one would assume that the priority would be a permanent strike partner for him, one that will start, and not be an expensive impact sub.

The Return of Daniel Sturridge

Another story which depressingly summed up attitude of some big clubs to young players wasn’t a transfer. Daniel Sturridge is a 21 year-old striker who plays for Chelsea. Actually, he plays for Bolton more than Chelsea, and that’s the problem. He’s been on loan to the Trotters and, now having had a taste of first-team football, has gotten quite accustomed to the idea.

“I want to play first-team football regularly for Chelsea Football Club”, Sturridge told *Sky Sports News HD* last week.

Fantastic. Only he’ll be waiting some time for that. His problem is two-fold. He has seasoned internationals – Torres, Kalou, Anelka and Drogba – ahead of him in the queue. If that wasn’t bad enough, he’s at a club not known for having much of a youth system, or a tolerance of inconsistent young players. Though Sturridge has had an excellent season, scoring 11 goals for Bolton since his January move, his problem is that a club like Chelsea are built to win now. In many ways they are like Manchester City, the club he left to join Chelsea. That’s why you wonder what Sturridge was thinking when



OTHER

The Boys Are Back!



Top: Carlo Ancelotti welcomes Daniel Sturridge to Stamford Bridge. Left: Paolo Di Canio gets the nod for the Swindon Town job. Right: Ruud van Nistelrooy could be on the move to Sunderland.

he went to Stamford Bridge, other than “thanks for the pay rise!”.

He knew what he was getting into. Chelsea have no time to be patient, to wait and see if Sturridge scores goals. That’s why they bought Torres now, and not six years ago when he was a promising striker who would have cost a fraction of his current price. That’s why they got rid of Shaun Wright-Philips, and that’s why it is a rare sight to see a Chelsea youth team product in the first team.

There’s no real way around this, especially for a striker. Sturridge will be a nomad, going wherever someone will give him a game, until he wakes up and realises that he’ll not start ahead of seasoned internationals.

In the same interview, Sturridge added, “I love the club. I have been at the club now for a year-and-a-half and have been on loan at Bolton. I love playing football for Chelsea...I don’t want to say

I am going to leave the club, I want to play regularly, but for me next season it is very important to play first-team football”.

It has been said that a striker’s currency is goals and it is hard to know what more the young man can do to break into Chelsea’s first team. But he’s got the right attitude. It’s time to play regularly, and if that’s not for Chelsea then so be it.

Considering that English strikers like Peter Crouch, Jermain Defoe, Carlton Cole and Gabriel Agbonlahor have been starved of goals, its great to see players like Sturridge, Andrew Carroll and especially Dudley Campbell of Blackpool scoring goals in the top league.

But spare a thought for Bolton Wanderers too. Sturridge will go back to Chelsea after his loan spell, and now they have lost top-scorer, and £11m record signing, Johan Elmander on a free transfer to Galatasary. Sturridge might

just have himself a new home, same as the old one.

Paolo’s Back

Paolo Di Canio, he of the Roman salute, is back in English football. However, almost as soon as Swindon Town decided to give him the job, the GMB union announced they would not be renewing their £4,000 per-year sponsorship of the club.

Andy Newman, the GMB’s Swindon branch secretary, told *The Daily Mail* on Friday, “We have decided to end our sponsorship deal with Swindon Town, we will not be renewing our agreement with them...because we are a trade union we could not be seen to have a financial relationship with a club that has fascist manager. We have no choice. It’s unfortunate but that’s the way it is”.

The issue here is not Di Canio’s political views (to which he is entitled). It’s the fact that a union sponsor a football club in the first place.

What political views should Mr. Di Canio hold that will be acceptable to the GMB? No doubt, if they were politically correct left-wing views, the union would up their deal with the club.

I give Di Canio some credit for making his views public. In this world of anonymous posters on Twitter and on forums, and of legendary Premier League footballers

trying to keep their extra-marital affairs quiet, here we have someone standing up for what they believe in, swaying from mainstream opinion and not giving a damn. His views may be at odds with most, but as long as he doesn’t try and secure The County Ground for political rallies, or read from Mussolini’s memoirs as a replacement for team talks, I don’t think Swindon fans will care one iota as long they win promotion from League Two back to League One.

Sources:
Sky Sports News,
The Daily Mail

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PHOTO: WALTER PLESS

Tilford Zebbras

Back Row (L-R): Dwayne Walsh, Sam McIntyre, Brett Andrews, Andrew Telega (captain), Henry Fagg, Jayden Welch.
Front Row (L-R): Jonathon Ladie, Matt Hall, Troy Kaden, Liam Scott, Jordan Muller.



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Mirabella keeps Cup competition running

JOE Mirabella is a football man, through and through. His commitment to our sport was evidenced last week when he may have saved the inaugural Mirabella Cup from being sensationally scrapped.

Once FFA stepped in and denied Melbourne Victory and Melbourne Heart from competing in the knockout competition, Mirabella was in a position to pull out of his company's \$50,000 sponsorship deal with FFV.

He didn't. He halved his contribution but that won't have an effect on the \$50,000 prize money as FFV raked in roughly \$32,000 from entry fees.

That in itself makes for an interesting topic of conversation given that in a lengthy interview I conducted with Nick Monteleone a fortnight out from this year's FFV presidential election he made it clear that he supported a Dockerty Cup-style tournament which was free and open to every club in the state.

Hmm. One wonders what would have become of the entry fees had the take-up for the Mirabella Cup been much more successful. Cynics might say that FFV initially used the cup as yet another revenue stream.

And despite the burgeoning list of superlatives seen whenever the Mirabella Cup is mentioned on the FFV website or the pages of Goal! Weekly I wonder if there are clubs out there scratching their heads and wondering why they bothered to enter the competition in the first place.

Clubs such as Langwarrin for example. Langy coughed up \$500 to play in front of a dismal home crowd on the Tuesday of the Easter break only to be humiliated by State Two outfit Dandenong City. To rub salt into Langy's wounds the winner was scored by Wayne Gordon who had been sacked by Langwarrin the previous season.

Now there's \$500 thrown on the scrapheap by my reckoning. But putting that to one side, at a meeting last week Mirabella confirmed his company's new \$25,000 commitment.

"I'm a bit disappointed but I don't blame FFV or FFA because I understand that FFA wants to organise an Australian Cup maybe next year or the year after and they are protecting their interests," said Mirabella.

"When the two A-league clubs couldn't compete in the Mirabella



Cobram Victory celebrate toppling Whittlesea Zebras in the Mirabella Cup last weekend. Photo: ALLISON GRINTER

Cup we could have pulled out but we decided against that and Mark Rendell and others thanked us for sticking with it."

It's the romance of the old Dockerty Cup that Mirabella holds dear. He was president of Brunswick Juventus when they upset South Melbourne Hellas many years ago.

And the unpredictable nature of cup competition was reinforced with Cobram Victory's stunning 3-2 win over State One outfit Whittlesea Zebras in the fourth round of this year's Mirabella Cup.

"I'm sure that both Heart and Victory will be disappointed at not being able to play in the Cup," said Mirabella.

"Teams really look forward to cup competitions and it would have been great for clubs in lower leagues to compete against these A-league clubs."

It's D-day for Dandy

DANDENONG Thunder's appeal against penalties imposed for misconduct will be heard tonight (Monday) at 6.15pm.

The club was docked six championship points in late April and ordered to play four home games behind closed doors. It also was fined \$4000 while two club associates were fined \$2000 each.

The initial appeal hearing was adjourned to allow Thunder more time to prepare its case.

Tonight's hearing is important in more ways than one. The outcome and Thunder's reaction will be a true test of FFV's mettle.

The whisper is that the federation has tired of complaints about crowd behaviour and is determined to resolve the matter one way or another. Watch this space.

MacLaren's a wee Scot

JAMIE MacLaren remains on track to play for Scotland in the UEFA Under-19 Championships after playing in both friendlies against Denmark a fortnight ago.

The Sunbury-born former VIS scholarship holder started the first game and came on as a sub in the second match as manager Billy Stark rotated his squad in order to give everyone a start.

The Scots featured players a year younger than their opponents and Stark had a close look at the talent coming through the ranks.

Although Scotland lost 3-2 and 1-0 Stark was impressed with the showing of his young squad.

"The second halves of both games were really encouraging in terms of our preparation for the qualifiers in September," said Stark.

"We have a bit to work on but overall I think we have a strong core of a squad. We still have the likes of Clark Robertson and Stuart Armstrong, guys with experience from the last campaign, to add to the group we have worked with this week."

Scotland will compete in Group 8 in their bid to qualify for the 2011/2012 UEFA Under-19 Championship. Slovenia will host the group, which also contains Belgium and Wales, with the round robin of matches due to be



Jamie MacLaren, Scotland under-19s.

played between 21 and 26 September.

It now seems that MacLaren is not on the radar of young Socceroos head coach Jan Versleijen albeit that the Scots rate the 17-year-old highly. MacLaren is Blackburn's leading academy scorer and has had some fine performances in the EPL outfit's reserves.

The young Socceroos are preparing for the FIFA Under-20 World Cup which gets underway in July in Colombia.

Versleijen last week named a 23-strong squad to be based in the Netherlands in preparation for the finals.

The squad will play a friendly against Germany's Under-19s and compete at the Terborg Toernooi against junior sides including Ajax, PSV Eindhoven and Argentinian giants Boca Juniors.

It will be the last chance for players to push their claim for selection ahead of the opening game against Ecuador on 31 July before the team takes on Costa Rica and Spain.

Versleijen said the blend of domestic and foreign-based players in the squad was deliberate.

"For this squad, I have invited back a number of overseas-based players, who trained with us in Duisburg in March, to give them another chance to stake a claim for a position in the final squad," he said.

"Other overseas-based players, who we are very familiar with, were not considered for selection in the squad for this tour due to a heavy domestic season."

There is no doubt that Versleijen has named a strong training squad and although the young Socceroos have difficult opponents to contend with in Colombia failure to qualify for the next phase of the finals would be a blow for the Dutch coach.

Squad: **Matthew Acton** (Brisbane Roar), **Mustafa Amini** (Central Coast Mariners), **Terry Antonis** (Sydney FC), **Kearyn Baccus** (Le Mans, France), **Jake Barker-Daish** (Gold Coast United), **Mark Birighitti** (Adelaide United), **Kofi Danning** (Sydney FC), **Jason Davidson** (Sporting Covilha, Portugal), **Matthew Fletcher** (Sunderland, England), **Petar Franjic** (Melbourne Victory), **Sam Gallagher** (Central Coast Mariners), **Corey Gameiro** (Fulham, England), **Jason Geria** (Brisbane Roar), **Rhyan Grant** (Sydney FC), **Brendan Hamill** (Melbourne Heart), **Bernie Ibini-Isei** (Central Coast Mariners), **Josip Konyit** (Dinamo Zagreb, Croatia), **George Lambadaridis** (Club Brugge, Germany), **Massimo Luongo** (Tottenham Hotspur, England), **Steven Lustica** (Hajduk Split, Croatia), **Dylan McGowan** (Hearts FC, Scotland), **Trent Sainsbury** (Central Coast Mariners).

Rumours not Wright

BILLY Wright has received the dreaded thumbs up from Peninsula Strikers amid rumours that his job as senior coach was on the line.

Club spokesman Steve Keenan

was taken aback when I contacted him yesterday to ask if Wright was in the gun.

"We haven't even considered replacing Billy," said Keenan. "These rumours have come about because we were thumped by Doveton (7-0) the previous week but there's absolutely no truth in them whatsoever."

"We had a great win yesterday. There was a fantastic atmosphere in the clubrooms after the match. The place was really jumping."

The win Keenan referred to was Saturday's thrilling 5-4 victory at home over Fitzroy City.

Wright had made changes after the Doveton debacle with Murat Demirkol and Theo Papadopoulos linking up front and Gary Hughes coming back into the side.

While these experienced players gave Strikers a lift the winning goal late in the game came courtesy of a superb strike from 16-year-old substitute Kristian Miller.

Bhoy back in town

JACKSON Irvine has a few weeks back in Melbourne to reflect on a rollercoaster first season as a professional footballer.

The Celtic teenager's topsy-turvy ride involved a lengthy rehab after rupturing ankle ligaments in a training mishap. But all's well that ends well and a league and cup double was to follow.

He'll fly back to Glasgow on 30 June to resume pre-season training in what is a crucial second season of a two-year contract.

He's seen two under-19s teammates win contract extensions last season and that's his main aim now.

In the end his fate will be decided by Neil Lennon and the senior coaching staff.

"Once you leave the youth team it's up to the manager to decide whether the club retains you. My aim is to get another year or two. Absolutely."

And he's had no problems fitting in to unfamiliar surroundings.

"Living in Scotland is great. I really enjoy it. I'm settled in and I've made lots of friends."

Irvine won't simply be chilling out during his time in Melbourne as he arrived armed with a personal training schedule.

He has a specific program to stick to over the next five weeks with the emphasis on endurance and strength work.

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Germany in driving seat for more World Cup glory

By Ann Odong

With only 34 days to go before kick off to the Women's World Cup in Germany, Ann Odong brings you the first in a series of a group by group overviews on who will stand in the way of the Matildas' World Cup quest for glory. This week we start off with Group A featuring reigning champs Germany, Canada, Nigeria and France.

Germany

Coach: Silvia Neid
Captain: Birgit Prinz
Confederation: UEFA
Current FIFA Ranking: 2
Best World Cup Finish: Champions (2003 and 2007)



Overview

Current World Cup holders and reigning European Champions, like their male counterparts, the German Women's National Football team is one of the most formidable units in women's world football. Boasting some of the greats of the women's game including captain and three times FIFA Women's World Player of the Year Birgit Prinz, the host nation will be a difficult squad to overcome this World Cup. Since their first world crown in 2003, the Die Nationalelf have been nigh on unbeatable in big tournaments and, gunning for their third world crown in succession, motivation will not be a factor.

How They Qualified

As host nation, the Germans automatically qualified for the World Cup. Hardly seems fair does it?

The Team

Lead by Prinz, coach Silvia Neid has at her disposal a team blended with all the key ingredients; experience, youth, attacking options, defensive stability and those crucial game-breaking players. Veterans Prinz, Kerstin Garefrekes, Inka Grings and Ariane Hingst should all have parts to play but, like it was with Joachim Low's side last year, this could be the breakthrough tournament for the next generation. Although a goal scorer in the 2007 final, this tournament could be where 24 year old midfielder Simone Laudehr and 23 year old Fatmire Bajramaj take the reigns from Garefrekes and Co. Add to that 2010 U20 World Cup golden ball and shoe winner Alexandra Popp, then you can see why this squad are strong pre-tournament favourites.

Players to watch:

Fatmire Bajramaj (Midfielder), Alexandra Popp (Forward), Simone Laudehr (Midfielder), Melanie Behringer (Midfielder)

Best Footballing Moment

It would surprise many to realise that Germany were not instantly a force in women's football. In fact, despite debuting in 1982, for most of the 1990s the German were overshadowed by their Scandinavian neighbours in Sweden and Norway. All changed at the 2003 World Cup where, in a passing of the baton, a Nia Kunzer golden goal header in the 98th minute saw them defeat Sweden 2 - 1 in the final and they



Germany celebrates its 2-0 upset win over favourites Brazil in the final of the 2007 FIFA Women's World Cup.

have been at the top ever since.

World Cup Chances

With a powerful looking squad assembled, the Germans should easily find their way out of the group. From there on, well as winners of the 2003 and 2007 editions of the FIFA Women's World Cup, it would be a very brave person who would bet against a German victory on home soil.

Canada

Coach: Carolina Morace
Captain: Christine Sinclair
Confederation: CONCACAF
Current FIFA Ranking: 6
Best World Cup Finish: Fourth (2003)



Overview

On the pitch, the Canadians have never looked better with Italian great Carolina Morace at the helm. 2010 was a big year for the Canadians as they took out the Cyprus Cup, Four Nations Tournament in Brazil and capped it off with a win in the CONCACAF championships in November. Currently at their highest world ranking to date and, if their can get out of their group, Canada look set to seriously threaten in Germany.

How They Qualified

With the exemption of the first World Cup in 1991, Canada has participated in every edition of the tournament. The 2010 CONCACAF qualification tournament was trouble free for the Canadians as they were crowned champions for the second time in the region. It was an impressive run that finished undefeated with a 5-0-0 record with no team able to breach their defence and 17 goals scored.

World Cup Chances

If you had asked me prior to February, I would have said that Canada's chances of going deep into the tournament were never better and they looked like advancing behind Germany. However, since then Carolina Morace has resigned citing differences with the Canadian Soccer Association and there has been a mini player revolt. How this will affect the team remains to be seen but you only need to look at

The Team

Under Morace, the "Big Red" have transformed from a one dimensional, long ball side with an emphasis on physicality into a more fluid, multi-system and possession team with the results showing on the pitch. The added depth in Canadian football, with several promising young players joining the veterans, has given Morace considerable flexibility. Look for captain Christine Sinclair, arguably the best player Canada has produced in men's or women's football, to lead the way along with fellow veterans Diana Matheson and Candice Chapman. The new crop are equally as exciting with centre back Emily Zurzer, midfielders Kaylyn Kyle and Jonelle Filigno and forward Josee Belanger just a couple looking to make an impact in Germany.

Players to Watch:

Christine Sinclair (Forward), Karina LeBlanc (Goalkeeper), Kaylyn Kyle (Midfielder), Jonelle Filigno (Midfielder)

Best Footballing Moment

In 2003 Canada really arrived on the international women's football scene when they placed fourth in the 2003 FIFA Women's World Cup. The tournament started disastrously for the Canadians when they were pummeled 4 - 1 by eventual champions Germany. However, wins over Argentina and Japan in the group stage and a quarterfinal win over China saw the Canadians take on eventual finalists Sweden in the semi-finals. Whilst they lost that match narrowly 2 - 1 and the third place play-off to the USA, it was the making of Canada as a women's football nation.

World Cup Chances

If you had asked me prior to February, I would have said that Canada's chances of going deep into the tournament were never better and they looked like advancing behind Germany. However, since then Carolina Morace has resigned citing differences with the Canadian Soccer Association and there has been a mini player revolt. How this will affect the team remains to be seen but you only need to look at

France at last year's World Cup to see how turmoil can destroy a very talented squad.

Nigeria

Coach: Eucharia Ngozi Uche
Captain: Perpetua Nkwocha
Confederation: CAF
Current FIFA Ranking: 27
Best World Cup Finish: Quarter finals (1999)



Overview

When it comes to African women's football, Nigeria are the undisputed queens of the continent. Of the 9 African Women's Championships to be held since 1991, the Nigerians have won all but one (2008) including the first seven. In total they have only lost an astonishing four games in the history of the championships. However, this CAF dominance has not readily translated onto the international scene. Despite qualifying for all FIFA Women's World Cup tournaments, Nigeria have struggled to have an impact. But with the U20s side performing well in the 2010 U20s World Cup, going down to Germany 2 - 0 in the final, it might just signal a new era for the Super Falcons.

How They Qualified

Nigeria moved their way through Group A of the African Women's Football Championships with little trouble. With three reasonably comfortable victories, the Super Falcons topped the table earning them a semi-final berth against Cameroon. The Cameroonians proved to be a mere speed hump than an obstacle as they were stream rolled 5 - 1 to set up a final against new rival Equatorial Guinea. With a 4 - 2 win, the Nigerians avenged their 2008 semi final loss to the Guineans and reclaimed their continental title.

The Team

It terms of football talent, the Nigerians look to put out one of their strongest teams. This is helped by several of their key players suiting up on the best women's leagues in the world including the Swedish Damallsvenskan and Danish Elitedivisionen. Captain and three time African Women Footballer of the Year Perpetua Nkwocha is one of those players and along with Rita Chikwelu and Faith Ikidi should be the nucleus of this side. Add to that the emergence of Desire Oparanozie, Ebere Orji and Amarachi Okoronkwo, who led Nigeria to the final of last years U20 Women's World Cup final, the Nigerians could just surprise the group favourites.

Players to Watch:

Perpetua Nkwocha (Forward), Desire Oparanozie (Forward), Ebere Orji (Midfielder)

Best Footballing Moment

Grouped with the USA, North Korea and Denmark in the 1999 FIFA Women's World Cup, the expectations of Nigeria to get out of the group were low. Yet, despite a 7 - 1 belting by the USA, led by the Mercy Akide and Nkiru Okosieme, the Nigerians made their way out courtesy of a 2 - 1 win over North Korea and a 2 - 0 victory over Denmark. The quarter final saw them play emerging power Brazil, but despite a gallant fighting effort, the Africans were bundled out of the tournament losing 4 - 3.

World Cup Chances

As the lowest ranked nation in the group and up against Germany, France and Canada, for Nigeria to get out of the group they will need to put in the performances of their lives. But in saying that, the Super Falcons possess a dangerous strike force and you shouldn't be surprised if they cause the odd upset.

France

Coach: Bruno Bini
Captain: Sandrine Soubeyrand
Confederation: UEFA
Current FIFA Ranking: 7
Best World Cup Finish: Group Stage



Overview

In terms of European football, France are very late bloomers. Very late bloomers. Despite having a team since the 1920s, yes that's right the 1920s, the French Women's National Team struggled internationally failing to qualify for three of the first FIFA Women's World Cups and six straight European Championships. The late 2000s have seen a flourishing of French women's football signified by Lyon making the last two UEFA Women's Champions League finals.

How They Qualified

After being drawn in Group 1 in UEFA qualification, France made easy work of their group opponents Iceland, Northern Ireland, Estonia, Serbia and Croatia. Finishing on top after winning all 10 games, they met Group 7 winners Italy in the direct play-off. France had the home ground advantage in the first leg but were unable to capitalise with the game ending in a 0 - 0 draw. However, on the road trip for the second leg, Bruno Bini's side turned it around with an inspired 3 - 2 result to see Les Bleues qualify for only their second World Cup.

The Team

France are led by their inexhaustible 37 year old captain Sandrine Soubeyrand who, with 158 caps, is the most capped French male or female footballer in history. Soubeyrand has led the team in their darkest periods but in this new era, it's the new generation that has transitioned them into an emerging women's football nation. Two time French women's footballer of the year and Lyon playmaker Camille Abily will be key this tournament along with club team mates Élodie Thomis, Eugénie Le Sommer and Amandine Henry.

Players to Watch:

Camille Abily (Midfielder), Élodie Thomis (Forward), Eugénie Le Sommer (Midfielder), Amandine Henry (Midfielder)

Best Footballing Moment

Grouped with traditional women's football powers Germany and Norway (and Iceland), it was going to be a tough task for the France to progress from Group B in the 2009 European Championships. However, a win over Iceland and a 1 - 1 draw with Norway was enough to see them into their first international tournament quarterfinal. Although they eventually lost to the Netherlands, it was the coming of age for Les Bleues.

World Cup Chances

With Germany odds on favourite to take out the group, expect France to be battling it out with Canada for second place. That said, the key game for the French side will be on 30 June when they meet the Canadians.

TYSON HOLMES

Sunshine Coast Fire FC



FULL NAME: Tyson Clay Holmes
BIRTHPLACE: Maffra, Victoria
BIRTH DATE: 09/11/1987
HEIGHT: 188cm
WEIGHT: 79kg
MARRIED: No
CAR: Kia Spectra
NICKNAME: Holmesy
PREVIOUS CLUBS: Kawana FC, Frankston Pines (VPL, Mitchelton FC (BPL)
REPRESENTATIVE HONOURS: Sunshine Coast rep player 2000-2005
INDIVIDUAL HONOURS: QSL MVP 2009, 2010
TEAM HONOURS: QSL Premiers and Champions 2008 & 2010
CHILDHOOD FOOTBALL HERO: Zidane
FAVOURITE O/S PLAYER: Jack Wilshere
FAVOURITE HAL PLAYER: Vic Bozanic
FAVOURITE FORMER SOCCEROO: Craig Johnston
FAVOURITE CURRENT SOCCEROO: Tim Cahill
MOST MEMORABLE MATCH AS A PLAYER: Beating Brisbane Roar 1-0 with Sunshine Coast Fire
MOST MEMORABLE MATCH AS A FAN: Roar v Mariners HAL Grand Final this year
MOST MEMORABLE GOAL YOU'VE SCORED: First 40 seconds in QSL Grand Final last year which proved to be the winner
EARLIEST FOOTBALL MEMORY: Scoring 13 goals in a U7's game haha
FUNNIEST MOMENT IN FOOTBALL: Trying a knee slide celebration last season and face planting
BIGGEST DISAPPOINTMENT: Not having played at a higher level so far
WORST INJURY: Dislocated knee
MOST DIFFICULT OPPONENT: Matt McKay
FAVOURITE AWAY GROUND: Perry Park, Brisbane Strikers home ground
SUPERSTITIONS: I'm not superstitious at all
TYPICAL MATCH DAY MEAL: Big breakky of bacon, eggs, toast, beans, sausages and tomato
WHAT ARE YOUR STRENGTHS: Vision and creativity
WHAT ARE YOUR WEAKNESSES: Overly competitive at times
FAVOURITE TEAM WHEN GROWING UP: Liverpool
FAVOURITE OTHER SPORTS: AFL, Basketball
FAVOURITE OTHER SPORTSPERSON: Roger Federer
FAVOURITE FOODS: Italian or Indian
FAVOURITE ACTOR/ACTRESS: Will Farrell
HOBBIES: In my spare time I enjoy hanging out with mates and surfing here and there
FAVOURITE HOLIDAY RESORT: Danaru Island, Fiji
FAVOURITE NIGHT SPOT: The Mud Bar
IDEAL DATE: I'm simple, like a nice dinner somewhere and a movie
FAVOURITE TV SHOWS: How I Met Your Mother, Big Bang Theory
FAVOURITE MUSIC: Two Door Cinema Club
FAVOURITE FILM: The Hangover
LAST SOCCER SHIRT YOU BOUGHT: Liverpool away shirt
FUNNIEST RUMOUR YOU'VE HEARD ABOUT YOURSELF: That I'm gay haha!
BIGGEST INFLUENCE ON CAREER: George Cowie
BIGGEST DRAG IN SOCCER: Pre season
FOOTBALL AMBITION: To play professional football
WHICH PERSON IN THE WORLD WOULD YOU MOST LIKE TO MEET?: Michael Jordan
YOUR TIP FOR THIS YEAR'S HAL: Roar to go back-to-back
YOUR TIP FOR THIS YEAR'S QSL: Sunshine Coast to win the Double!!

PHOTO: ROBYN WOODALL

Winners and grinnners of 2011

Euro
Wrap



Alex Luttrell

With the seasons for many of the major European football leagues drawing to a close over the next fortnight, it is about the right time to take a breath and look at the winners, and the losers of Europe's top leagues.

EPL:
Well, there would be no prizes for anyone who tipped Manchester United for the 2011 Premiership. Sir Alex Ferguson's side went into the season as the usual favourites, along with consistent contenders Chelsea and Arsenal. This season was more of a battle between United and Chelsea for top spot, as Arsenal's inconsistencies in the middle period of the season let them down. Manchester never really looked to be knocked off the top as Chelsea began to drop points toward the end of the season, most importantly against United. Manchester capitalised



Man U made it a record 19 English titles after Arsenal and Chelsea fell away at critical times of the season.

on this, winning against Arsenal and Chelsea in successive weeks, cementing their place as league champions.

Champions: *Man United*
Runners up: *Chelsea*
Relegated: *West Ham, Wigan and Blackpool, with the possibilities of West Bromwich, Wolves and Blackburn.*

La Liga
Likewise to the EPL, the Spanish La Liga pundits would have had no trouble in picking Barcelona for their third straight title, even with the fierce competition of Real Madrid. Barca won both

league El Classico encounters and were never really troubled by Madrid throughout the season because of this. Madrid's occasional upset losses let them down and lost the league by four points.

Champions: *Barcelona*
Runners up: *Real Madrid*
Relegated: *Almeria, Hercules and Deportivo.*

Serie A
In Italy, however, the competition between the top three at one point was intensely fierce. AC Milan, Internazionale and Napoli all had great chances of clinching

the Scudetto. At one point in the middle of the season, Napoli had clinched top spot and were looking at upsetting both Milan and Inter. However, Inter regained top spot briefly before city rivals AC took top spot after a resurgence of form in a great three-way tug of war all season. Inter, dropped games, which Milan capitalised on, but when the two met AC came out on top and were looking down the barrel of another championship, which came to fruition.

Champions: *AC Milan*
Runners up: *Internazionale*
Relegated: *Bari, Brescia and Sampdoria.*

Bundesliga
In Germany, the battle for a Championship never looked to leave Dortmund's grasp in the second half of the season. The pundits' surprise packet of 2010-2011 managed to better dominant champions Bayern Munich and strong contenders Bayer Leverkusen to win a much deserved title. Finishing the season seven points clear atop the table, Dortmund showed that Germany is not all about Munich, who finished in third behind Leverkusen, after both sides dropped games which

Dortmund capitalised on duly.

Champions: *Borussia Dortmund*
Runners up: *Bayer Leverkusen*
Relegated: *St. Pauli, Eintracht Frankfurt and Borussia Monchengladbach.*

Ligue 1
Likewise to Germany, the French Ligue 1 had a surprise packet that pundits would not have picked to win the title. Lille OSC managed to find some of their historically dominant form of their Champions League days and overcome league heavyweights Marseille and Lyon, who finished second and third, respectively. Like Dortmund in Germany, the dream for Lille never looked doubtful as they consistently won games which their rivals dropped, finishing the season six points clear of Marseille atop the table.

Champions: *Lille OSC*
Runners up: *Olympique Marseille*
Relegated: *AC Arles-Avignon, RC Lens and AS Monaco, with the mathematical possibilities of AS Nancy, Caen and Valenciennes.*

UK Results	
Blue Square Bet Premier	AFC Wimbledon 0-0 Luton (AFC Wimbledon win 4-3 on penalties)
Scottish Cup	Motherwell 0-3 Celtic
Scot-Ads Highland Football League	Strathspey Thistle 0-3 Nairn County Wick Academy 1-0 Rothes
Principality Building Society Welsh Premier League	Neath 3-2 Prestatyn Town
League of Ireland Premier Division	Sligo 3-0 Galway Utd
The FA Women's Cup Sponsored by E.ON	Arsenal Ladies 2-0 Bristol Academy
Npower League Two	Accrington 0-1 Stevenage (agg 0-3) Shrewsbury 0-0 Torquay (agg 0-2)
Scot-Ads Highland Football League	Fraserburgh 0-1 Huntly
League of Ireland Premier Division	Bohemians 0-1 St Patricks Derry City 1-1 Bray Shamrock Rovers 3-0 Drogheda Utd UCD 0-2 Dundalk

Manchester dreaming and other football stories

By Roy Hay

It has been a good year for both halves of Manchester, with City winning the FA Cup and qualifying for the European Champions League next season while United has won the English Premier League for a record 19th time and has a European Champions League final against Barcelona to come on 28 May.

In a football world where there is no salary cap, United is a massive global brand despite huge debts saddled on the club by its owners the Glazer family from the USA, while City is backed by the wealth of Sheikh Mansour bin Zayed Al Nahyan, the brother of the ruler of Abu Dhabi, the biggest of the United Arab Emirates. The family has an estimated fortune of \$1trillion.

If Szymanski and Kuper are correct that the only variable which predicts success in top level English football is the size of the wage bill of a club, then the two are hugely advantaged in the modern game. [i] <#_edn1> It is a long time, however, since both teams were powers in the land at the same time. In 1966-67, United won the First Division and the following season, City topped the league and United was runner-up and won the European Cup, but my own memories are of a season before that.

Almost a decade earlier, United was still recovering from the Munich air crash, when half the team died on the return flight from a match in Belgrade in 1958. That tragedy occurred as the headmaster of my school in Scotland and I were travelling south to RAF College Cran-



MIGHTY MAGYAR (and one time South Melbourne coach)... Puskas (centre) scores for Real Madrid against Eintracht Frankfurt in the 1960 European Cup final in Glasgow.

well overnight by train. At each stop further details of the horror would emerge from people listening to radios in the station or newspapers becoming available. People of my generation remember where they were when John F Kennedy was assassinated, and the Manchester United tragedy had a similar impact. For many of my contemporaries this was to mean that United was always regarded with a little sympathy, rather than the dislike, even hatred, they often attract today.

In 1959 I was a student at Manchester University living in a hall of residence in Wilmslow Road. I played football for the Hall, but was never good enough to make the university team. Since my football allegiance was to Ayr United in the Scottish league I had no particular preference south of the border. I'd try to get to which

ever team was playing at home if I wasn't playing or flying from Woodvale near Southport since I was in the RAF at the time as well.

So one of the great advantages of Manchester was the chance to watch United and City on alternate weeks. I would walk to Maine Road across Moss Side, still a very run down area of the city, or get the train into town and then out to Old Trafford for games. City had a good side in those days with former German prisoner-of-war Bert Trautmann in goal, Alan Oakes, big Dave Ewing, and Bobby Johnstone, a former member of Hibernian's 'famous five', my other favourite childhood team. The mercurial Denis Law was signed in March 1960 and immediately ignited the place, before heading for Torino In Italy, prior to returning to the Reds in 1962. United, post-Munich, was a

shadow of the Busby Babes, but I watched David Herd, Dennis Viollet, Bobby Charlton, Billy Foulkes, Maurice Setters and Albert Quixall, who were not bad players.

If Manchester was a marvelous experience for a teenager in season 1959-60 there was a greater highlight to come. On 18 May 1960 I got a ticket for a game in Glasgow and went up by train. It turned out to be no ordinary match, the European Cup Final between Real Madrid and Eintracht Frankfurt at Hampden Park. Eintracht were a good team. They had beaten Rangers by 12 goals to 4 over the two legs of the semi-final, so they were no mugs. About 135,000 were said to be in the ground, but I saw many £5 notes being slapped down in turnstiles as people went through in twos or over the top. I was on the north side of the ground, east of the



The match day program

north stand and about half way back, so had a great view of the unfolding game. The best account remains Hugh McIlvanney's 'runner' which introduces McIlvanney on Football. [ii] <#_edn2>

The Germans made a mistake. They scored first. This ignited Real, led by the incomparable Alfredo di Stefano who orchestrated everything. He would pick up the ball from Santamaria in defence and lay it off then sprint forward to pick up the return and feed Canario or Del Sol or the mesmerising Gento on the left wing. In the centre, the portly but lethal Puskas would be waiting for the cross and di Stefano would already be on his shoulder if the ball came further into the area. It was the most enthralling and skilful match I have ever seen. It ended 7-3 to Real with Pus-

kas scoring four times and di Stefano three. The Scottish crowd was spellbound, seeing what the sport was capable of achieving through the skills on display.

The only Scot on the pitch was the referee, Jack Mowat, and he was not noticed. A compliment to him. At the end the crowd did not leave Hampden. A full hour after the game most of us were still there marvelling at what we had seen and reliving it. When the huge crowd moved towards the exits I found myself at one point horizontal balanced on the heads of those around me as the surge carried us out into Mount Florida. I did not watch a football match for nearly a year after that game, having seen the ultimate and not wishing to sully the memory.

I am not sure whether it was that evening or on another occasion, when walking back into the city that I saw one of those quintessential Glasgow moments—a punter, bevvied to the eyebrows, standing outside a shop window trying to read the evening paper by the light from a flashing neon sign. He would get a few words and then be plunged into darkness, cursing until it came on again, only for the pantomime to be repeated.

[i] <#_ednref> Simon Kuper & Stefan Szymanski, Why England lose and other curious football phenomena explained, Harper Collins, London,2009, pp. 111-112.

[ii] <#_ednref> Hugh McIlvanney, McIlvanney on Football, Mainstream, Edinburgh, 1994, pp. 11-13.

Sandy reclaims top spot; upsets galore

By Niki Cook

Round 8 of the Women's Premier League saw Sandringham return to the top of the ladder, and also produced several upsets.

Heidelberg United ended Casey Comets six game winning streak, while Altona City put an end to South Melbourne Women's run of four consecutive victories. In other results, Sandringham, Box Hill and VCL Country also picked up maximum points.

Heidelberg United collected the three points against the Emerging Athlete Program on Wednesday night largely thanks to a four goal haul from striker Melanie Camilleri. She opened the scoring ten minutes into the game, with what proved the only goal of the first half. Camilleri doubled Heidelberg's advantage eight minutes after the interval, but Kariah White put the EAP back in the game when she scored on 67 minutes.

The last ten minutes of the match produced a flurry of goals, with the teams scoring an amazing four times. Camilleri completed her hat-trick in the 80th minute, but White again cut the deficit to one goal one minute from time. Two goals in stoppage time, from Camilleri and Julia Nicolaci, produced a final scoreline of 5-2, which flattered Heidelberg, given that the EAP were within touching distance until the final minutes of the game. The EAP continues to sit eighth on the ladder, having lost its last four matches.

Box Hill United bounced back quickly from its Monday night defeat to see off Ashburton 2-1 at Wembley Park on Friday night. A late Kirstie Shearing goal for Sandringham had inflicted United's third loss of the season, but it was able to regroup swiftly to claim its fourth victory of the season. A goal in each half, in the 18th and 61st minutes, were enough for the reigning premier to secure the three points, despite Ashburton reducing the deficit two minutes from time. The result leaves Box Hill fifth on the ladder, with fourteen points, while Ashburton remains seventh with ten points.

Sandringham moved back to the top of the ladder, but it left it late to claim the three points at Harvest Home Reserve on Saturday. A single goal in the final ten minutes of the match was enough for Sandringham to defeat Bundoora United and overtake Casey Comets to climb back to the top of the table. It was Sandringham's third successive victory, and



The WPL's top scorer, Nicky Prins (Comets) with Heidelberg captain Rita Mankowska on her tail.

Photo: JOHN PUNSHON



Melanie Camilleri (Heidelberg) watches hopefully as Casey keeper Alex Lynch chases the ball over the line.

Photo: JOHN PUNSHON

its seventh of the season so far, and it gives it a two point cushion at the top of the ladder. Bundoora, following two straight losses, slips to sixth. Altona City recorded its second triumph of the season, and produced the upset of the round, when it defeated South Melbourne Women's 2-0 at DISC on Saturday evening. Goals in the 13th and 26th minutes from Katia Tavoraro and Ellvana Curo proved the difference between the two sides, with South unable to find the net for the first time since Round 3. That was also the last time that South dropped points, having since gone on a four game winning

streak, but it was Altona that showed better form on the day as it claimed its second victory in three matches. South's second defeat of the season sees it drop a place to fourth on the ladder, while Altona remains tenth, but now with a three point advantage over bottom side Doncaster.

Heidelberg United ended Casey Comets' tenure at the top of the ladder with a 2-0 victory at Olympic Village on Sunday. Once again it was the prolific Melanie Camilleri who was on target for United, with her goals in the 24th and 78th minutes separating the two sides. With seven of Heidelberg's last nine goals,

Camilleri has proved crucial to her side's recent run of form, and teams will need to find a way to negate her in order to have any chance of success. It was Casey's second defeat of the season, and both losses have been inflicted by Heidelberg, with a quirk of the fixture having led to the teams meeting twice in the first half of the season. The victory, Heidelberg's sixth of the campaign, lifts it to third, and it is level on nineteen points with Casey, which sits second.

VCL Country arrested its recent run of three consecutive defeats with a 1-0 victory over Doncaster Rovers at DISC on

Sunday. The only goal of the game came in the 72nd minute, but it was enough for Country to secure its third victory of the season. For Doncaster it was its seventh defeat in nine games, and it finds itself three points adrift at the foot of the table. VCL Country is in ninth place, with nine points.

Round 9 of the WPL takes place next weekend, and marks the midway point of the season, and so it is the last time for most teams that they will face unfamiliar opposition. South Melbourne Women's will look to bounce back quickly from its shock defeat when it takes on the EAP on

Wednesday night, while on Friday evening Doncaster Rovers will face a tough challenge from an in-form Heidelberg United. Saturday afternoon sees Bundoora United host VCL Country at Hillsview Recreation Reserve, while Sunday's action features Casey Comets and Box Hill United at Comets Stadium, and Ashburton and Altona City at Ashburton Park.

The round finishes on Monday night at Kingston Heath Soccer Complex, with Sandringham taking on South Melbourne Women's.

WPL RESULTS

Box Hill United 2
Ashburton 1

Bundoora Utd 0
Sandringham SC 1

South Melbourne 0
Altona City 2
(E Curo K Tavoraro)

Heidelberg Utd 2
Casey Comets 0

VCL Country 1
Doncaster Rovers 0

Reserves

Box Hill United 3 Ashburton 0,
Bundoora Utd 0 Sandringham
SC 1, South Melbourne Wom-
ens FC 4 Altona City 0, Heidel-
berg Utd 2 Casey Comets 2

WPL LADDER

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Sandringham	9	7	0	2	24	7	21
Casey Comets	9	6	1	2	21	9	19
Heidelberg Utd	9	6	1	2	18	12	19
South Melb	8	4	2	2	19	6	14
Box Hill United	9	4	2	3	15	14	14
Bundoora Utd	9	4	1	4	13	10	13
Ashburton	9	3	1	5	13	19	10
Emerging Ath	8	3	0	5	16	22	9
VCL Country	9	3	0	6	11	22	9
Altona City	8	2	1	5	9	18	7
Doncaster R	9	1	1	7	7	27	4

WPL Next Round

Emerging Athlete v South Melbourne
DISC - Pitch 1
Wed 25 May KO 7:30PM

Doncaster Rovers v Heidelberg Utd
Anderson Park
Fri 27 May KO 8:30PM

Bundoora Utd v VCL Country
Hills Recreational Reserve
Sat 28 May KO 2:00PM

Casey Comet v Box Hill United
Comets Stadium
Sun 29 May KO 3:00PM

Ashburton v Altona City
Ashburton Park
Sun 29 May KO 3:00PM

Sandringham SC v South Melbourne
Kingston Heath Soccer Complex
Mon 30 May KO 8:30PM

WPL RESERVES LADDER

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Box Hill United	7	7	0	0	34	5	21
South Melb	7	4	2	1	21	9	14
Sandringham	7	4	1	2	10	4	13
Bundoora Utd	8	3	2	3	8	10	11
Ashburton	7	3	0	4	17	15	9
Casey Comets	7	2	2	3	16	14	8
Altona City	7	2	2	3	7	20	8
Heidelberg Utd	7	0	3	4	6	19	3
Doncaster R	7	0	2	5	6	29	2
Emerging Ath					0	0	0
VCL Country	0				0	0	0

Victorian State & Provisional Leagues - Round 07

Seniors

STATE NORTH WEST 2

Reserves

Altona City 1 Whittlesea Ranges FC 3 (A Garisto 2 E Awad), Ballarat Red Devils 2 (P McClounan 2) Altona East Phoenix 3, Banyule City 3 Geelong 3, FC Clifton Hill 2 Westgate 1 (N Addo), Werribee City 4 Moreland City 2, Williamstown 0 Brunswick City 2

Altona City 4 Whittlesea Ranges FC 3 (V Leo D Giogha 2), Ballarat Red Devils 1 Altona East Phoenix 1, Banyule City 4 Geelong 0, FC Clifton Hill 0 Westgate 3, Werribee City 1 Moreland City 2, Williamstown 1 (J Drozdek) Brunswick City 1

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Moreland City

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Werribee City

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FC Clifton Hill

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Ballarat Red Devils

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Altona East Phoenix

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Westgate

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Brunswick City

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Geelong

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Williamstown

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FC Clifton Hill

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Brunswick City

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Werribee City

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Banyule City

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Williamstown

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Whittlesea Ranges FC

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Ballarat Red Devils

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Altona City

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Geelong

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Seniors

STATE NORTH WEST 3

Reserves

Cairnlea 1 (A Georgiou) Keilor Park 1 (RR Damianou),
Avondale Heights 2 Melbourne University 1 (LP Correa),
Geelong Rangers 0 Yarraville Glory 4, La Trobe University
1 (L Lidestri P Devuono) Manbyrnong Greens 1,
Sydenham Park 1 Sunbury Utd 1 (I Filipovic), Whittlesea
Utd 0 Hume Utd 2 (J Odisho J Sehic)

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Seniors		PROVI 1 NORTH WEST							Reserves						
Corio 0 Westvale 0, FC Strathmore 0 Essendon Utd 3, North City Lions 2 (H Ntakirutimana 2) North Sunshine Eagles 1, Northern Falcons 1 (A Pizzo) Surf Coast 0, South Yarra 2 Laverton Park 0, Sporting Whittlesea FC 1 (A Diop) Western Eagles 0								Corio 1 Westvale 2, FC Strathmore 2 Essendon Utd 1, North City Lions 2 North Sunshine Eagles 3, Northern Falcons 0 Surf Coast 5, South Yarra 4 Laverton Park 0, Sporting Whittlesea FC 3 Western Eagles 1							
	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT		P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Corio	7	5	1	1	18	10	16	South Yarra	7	7	0	0	19	3	2
South Yarra	7	4	1	2	11	9	13	North Sunshine Eagles	7	6	1	0	27	10	1
Northern Falcons	7	4	0	3	9	13	12	Surf Coast	7	4	1	2	15	8	1
North Sunshine Eagles	7	3	2	2	16	10	11	Westvale	7	4	0	3	16	8	1
Westvale	7	2	4	1	10	6	10	Sporting Whittlesea FC	7	3	2	2	18	14	1
North City Lions	7	3	1	3	13	15	10	FC Strathmore	7	3	1	3	15	15	1
Sporting Whittlesea FC	7	3	1	3	8	10	10	Laverton Park	7	3	0	4	10	20	
Western Eagles	7	3	0	4	14	11	9	Corio	7	2	2	3	16	12	
Laverton Park	7	2	2	3	9	13	8	Northern Falcons	7	2	2	3	11	28	
Essendon Utd	7	2	1	4	11	10	7	North City Lions	7	1	1	5	12	17	
FC Strathmore	7	1	3	3	12	19	6	Essendon Utd	7	1	1	5	9	18	
Surf Coast	7	1	2	4	9	14	5	Western Eagles	7	0	1	6	6	21	

Seniors

PROVI 2 NORTH WEST

Reserves

Epping City 4 (T Beer Y Said S Cicek M Said) Melbourne Tornado 0, Melbourne City 0 Lalor Utd 3, Moreland Utd 1 (A Babo) Hoppers Crossing 0, Plenty Valley Lions 3 (G Cecov E Mangati N Filin) Elwood City 1, West Preston 3 (C Kaloudis P Koniaras B Zarogiannis) Northern Roosters 1, Upfield 0 Bell Park 2 (J Cortorillo S Ryan)

Epping City 3 Melbourne Tornado 1, Melbourne City 0 Lalor Utd 1, Moreland Utd 3 Hoppers Crossing 2, Plenty Valley Lions 1 Elwood City 4, West Preston 4 Northern Roosters 5, Upfield 2 Bell Park 2

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Moreland Utd

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West Preston

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Hoppers Crossing

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Epping City

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Plenty Valley Lions

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Upfield

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Lalor Utd

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Melbourne Tornado

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Elwood City

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Bell Park

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Northern Roosters

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Melbourne City

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Upfield

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Elwood City

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Epping City

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Lalor Utd

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Moreland Utd

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Plenty Valley Lions

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Melbourne City

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West Preston

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Seniors

PROVI 3 NORTH WEST

Reserves

Darebin Utd 1 (E Bayraktar) Brunswick Zebras 0,
Heidelberg Stars 2 (AM Ahmed N Yussuf) Brimbank
Stallions 1, Mill Park 0 Essendon Royals 4 (M Strasser
2 A Sirin R Marchioli), Watsonia Heights 5 Balmoral FC
2 (B Spjodic H Ikanovic), Youth Utd 2 (O Gulen D Kaya)
Moreland Wolves 3, Melton Phoenix FC 1 (J Fitzlanis)
Meadow Park Eagles 1 (A Andronaco)

Darebin Utd 0 Brunswick Zebras 2, Heidelberg Stars
0 Brimbank Stallions 4, Mill Park 0 Essendon Royals
3 (C Grillo F Milne A Erden), Watsonia Heights 1 Bal-
moral FC 0, Youth Utd 2 Moreland Wolves 0, Melton
Phoenix FC 0 Meadow Park Eagles 1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT		P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Essendon Royals	7	6	0	1	23	13	18	Watsonia Heights	7	7	0	0	27	4	2
Moreland Wolves	7	5	0	2	20	12	15	Heidelberg Stars	7	4	1	2	25	15	1
Brunswick Zebras	7	4	1	2	22	15	13	Moreland Wolves	7	4	1	2	18	10	1
Heidelberg Stars	7	4	1	2	16	12	13	Melton Phoenix FC	7	4	1	2	10	7	1
Darebin Utd	7	4	0	3	8	8	12	Brimbank Stallions	7	5	0	2	11	6	1
Meadow Park Eagles	7	3	2	2	15	15	11	Brunswick Zebras	6	3	1	2	15	8	1
Brimbank Stallions	7	4	1	2	19	11	10	Darebin Utd	6	2	1	3	6	12	
Watsonia Heights	7	3	0	4	18	13	9	Meadow Park Eagles	6	2	1	3	5	12	
Youth Utd	7	2	1	4	12	19	7	Essendon Royals	7	2	0	5	15	16	
Balmoral FC	7	1	3	3	22	24	6	Youth Utd	6	2	0	4	14	23	
Mill Park	7	1	0	6	2	18	3	Balmoral FC	7	1	2	4	9	13	
Melton Phoenix FC	7	0	1	6	6	23	1	Mill Park	7	0	0	7	2	31	

Seniors

STATE SOUTH EAST 2

Reserves

Doncaster Rovers 0 South Springvale 2, Casey Comets (L Ryan) Noble Park Utd 3, Dandenong City 6 (WM Gordon V Juric 2 R- Machado 2 T Razov) Diamond Valley Utd 0, Heatherton Utd 2 Malvern City 3, Knox City 0 Eastern Lions 5 (MW Nyadzayo P McEvoy N Bouios O Jarel 2), Morwell Pegasus 5 (P Byrne 2 C Wynne N Knox S Tagliaferro) Box Hill United 0

Doncaster Rovers 6 South Springvale 0, Casey Comets 2 Noble Park Utd 4, Dandenong City 2 Diamond Valley Utd 2, Heatherton Utd 0 Malvern City 4, Knox City 4 Eastern Lions 1, Morwell Pegasus 0 Box Hill United 2

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT		P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Dandenong City	7	6	0	1	20	7	18	Knox City	7	4	1	2	19	11	13
Eastern Lions	7	5	1	1	17	6	16	Noble Park Utd	7	4	1	2	18	13	13
Malvern City	7	4	0	3	18	16	12	Box Hill United	7	3	3	1	11	8	12
Diamond Valley Utd	7	3	3	1	15	17	12	Eastern Lions	7	3	3	1	12	12	12
Casey Comets	7	3	1	3	12	8	10	Doncaster Rovers	7	3	2	2	18	10	11
Noble Park Utd	7	3	1	3	10	11	10	Diamond Valley Utd	7	3	1	3	14	18	10
South Springvale	7	3	1	3	9	12	10	South Springvale	7	3	1	3	10	14	10
Morwell Pegasus	7	3	0	4	14	11	9	Casey Comets	7	2	2	3	14	10	8
Box Hill United	7	2	3	2	11	9	9	Malvern City	7	2	2	3	16	13	8
Heatherton Utd	7	2	0	5	10	17	6	Dandenong City	6	2	2	2	7	10	8
Doncaster Rovers	7	1	1	5	7	14	4	Morwell Pegasus	7	1	2	4	14	21	5
Knox City	7	1	1	5	6	21	4	Heatherton Utd	6	1	0	5	8	21	

Seniors

STATE SOUTH EAST 3

Reserves

Berwick City 1 (Own Goal) Frankston Pines 0, Doveton 0
Nunawading City FC 2, Peninsula Strikers 5 (M Cooke A
Walder T Papadopoulos K Miller Own Goal) Fitzroy City
1, Waverley Wanderers 0 Old Scotch 3

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Seniors	PROVI 1 SOUTH EAST										Reserves									
Beaumaris 5 Lyndale Utd 3, Skye Utd 2 (CA Di Petta v Warragul Utd 7 (J Baldwin 2 M Jackson S Byers 2 J Mills R Wagner), Monash University 3 (M Goddard M Sovyev 2 Mooroolbark 3 (Y Christoforou B Adams 2), Old Camberwell Grammar 2 Old Melburnians 6, Sandringham SC 4 Brandon Park 1, Springvale City 0 Hampton Park United Sparrows 0										Skye Utd 1 (V Villela) Warragul Utd 1 (L McDonald), Monash University 3 (J Corrigan M Kenyi 2 Mooroolbark 0, Old Camberwell Grammar 0 Old Melburnians 5, Sandringham SC 7 Brandon Park 0, Springvale City 2 Hampton Park United Sparrows Football Club 0										
	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT			P	W	D	L	F	A	PT				
Springvale City	7	5	2	0	13	2	17	Mooroolbark		7	5	1	1	31	12	16				
Hampton Park United	7	4	3	0	17	11	15	Sandringham SC		6	5	1	0	25	6	13				
Beaumaris	7	5	0	2	18	17	15	Warragul Utd		7	4	1	2	22	12	13				
Warragul Utd	7	4	2	1	16	6	14	Monash University		6	3	3	0	15	9	12				
Old Melburnians	6	3	2	1	18	11	11	Old Melburnians		6	3	1	2	14	6	10				
Mooroolbark	7	3	2	2	16	14	11	Beaumaris		6	3	1	2	14	10	10				
Sandringham SC	6	3	0	3	13	8	6	Old Camberwell Grammar		7	2	2	3	11	17	8				
Monash University	6	1	3	2	11	17	6	Skye Utd		6	1	3	2	10	18	6				
Old Camberwell Grammar	7	1	1	5	6	13	4	Brandon Park		6	1	2	3	6	20	5				
Skye Utd	7	1	1	5	12	21	4	Springvale City		7	1	1	5	6	16	4				
Lyndale Utd	7	0	3	4	10	20	3	Hampton Park United		6	1	1	4	6	26	4				
Brandon Park	6	0	1	5	4	14	1	Lyndale Utd		6	0	1	5	5	13	1				

Seniors		PROV1 2 SOUTH EAST							Reserves						
Monbulk 5 Caulfield United Cobras SC 0, Ashburton United 0 0 Uni. of Melbourne 0, Casey Kings 1 Keysborough 4 M Roberts P Rodriguez L Moses A Obiech), Endeavour Utd 2 Bayside Argonauts 1, Old Carey 4 Boroondara Eagles 3 (D Rischitelli A Oliveira 2), Seaford Utd 4 Riversdale 3 (S Patsias K Cronic 2)								Monbulk 3 Caulfield United Cobras SC 0, Ashburton United 3 Uni. of Melbourne 1, Casey Kings 2 Keysborough 12 (M Soto Henriquez R Soukkane G- Gallardo 4 MG Ladu D- Verdicchizzi 5), Endeavour Utd 2 Bayside Argonauts 0, Old Carey 2 Boroondara Eagles 1 (W Shute), Seaford Utd 3 Riversdale 0							
	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT		P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Monbulk	7	4	0	3	14	10	12	Keysborough	7	5	2	0	32	14	17
Caulfield United Cobras	7	3	3	1	14	14	12	Monbulk	7	5	1	1	23	7	16
Bayside Argonauts	7	3	2	2	17	11	11	Ashburton United	7	5	1	1	19	8	16
Keysborough	7	3	2	2	16	10	11	Endeavour Utd	7	4	1	2	11	7	13
Old Carey	7	3	2	2	13	12	11	Uni. of Melbourne	7	4	0	3	15	12	12
Seaford Utd	7	3	1	3	14	14	10	Old Carey	7	3	3	1	11	9	12
Riversdale	7	3	1	3	12	14	10	Caulfield United Cobras	6	4	0	2	9	7	12
Ashburton United	7	3	1	3	12	14	10	Seaford Utd	7	3	0	4	14	15	9
Casey Kings	7	3	3	1	20	13	9	Bayside Argonauts	7	2	0	5	18	17	9
Endeavour Utd	7	2	1	4	7	10	7	Boroondara Eagles	7	1	1	5	7	18	4
Boroondara Eagles	7	1	2	4	11	16	5	Riversdale	6	0	0	6	5	19	0
Uni. of Melbourne	7	1	2	4	6	18	5	Casey Kings	7	0	1	6	6	37	-2

Seniors	PROVI 3 SOUTH EAST	Reserves
East Bentleigh 0 Eltham Redback FC 1 (R Adams), Whitehorse Utd 2 Brighton 1 (A Greateorex), Old Trinity Grammarians 3 Baxter 1 (D Disseldorp), Rowville Eagles (D Golubov) Noble Park 1, White Star Dandenong 3 (I tyczcen E Lomiri E Sepeck) Middle Park FC 5 (N Mullen Stevenson N Meade 3), Old Brighton Grammarians 1 Collingwood City 2 (I Skukan N Van Hattum)	East Bentleigh 1 (I Natsioulas) Eltham Redback FC 1, Whitehorse Utd 2 Brighton 3 (S Heemann 2 N Sweeney), Old Trinity Grammarians 2 Baxter 0 Rowville Eagles 1 Noble Park 5, White Star Dande- nong 0 Middle Park FC 2, Old Brighton Grammarians 1 Collingwood City 0	
	P W D L F A PT	P W D L F A PT
Collingwood City	7 7 0 0 19 7 21	Old Brighton Grammarians 7 7 0 0 17 8 21
Middle Park FC	6 6 0 0 27 6 18	Brighton 7 4 2 1 17 11 14
Rowville Eagles	7 4 1 2 22 14 13	Collingwood City 6 4 1 1 26 8 13
Whitehorse Utd	6 4 1 1 12 6 13	Baxter 7 4 1 2 21 15 13
Old Brighton Grammarians	7 3 0 4 16 13 9	Old Trinity Grammarians 6 4 0 2 16 9 12
Brighton	7 3 0 4 16 18 9	Middle Park FC 6 4 0 2 13 6 12
Old Trinity Grammarians	7 3 0 4 14 20 9	Whitehorse Utd 6 3 0 3 15 13 9
White Star Dandenong	7 3 0 4 16 24 9	White Star Dandenong 7 2 0 5 19 20 6
Noble Park	7 2 1 4 15 19 7	Rowville Eagles 7 2 0 5 13 21 6
Eltham Redback FC	7 2 1 4 10 18 7	Eltham Redback FC 7 1 1 5 4 14 4
Baxter	7 2 0 5 11 21 6	Noble Park 7 1 1 5 8 25 4
East Bentleigh	7 0 0 7 10 22 0	East Bentleigh 7 0 2 5 11 30 2

[illegible]

Dandenong City sounds out warning in SE2

By Michal Skrodsky

Well tweekers it's been another huge week in local football, and to quote a great Australian, "I'm excited!" The weather is getting colder but the action is heating up, let's get straight into the action.

State 2 NW saw a huge clash between challengers Werribee City and undefeated Moreland City and it was the Bees from the sewage farm who took the points in an absolutely breathe taking 4-2 win, inflicting Moreland's first loss of the season. Moreland stay though and Werribee sit in 3rd due to Werribee's 3 point deduction, if they weren't docked these three points then the Bees would be top of the heap. Whittlesea Ranges are in second after a 3-1 away wi at Altona City who remain in deep relegation trouble along with Banyule. Next week all eyes will be on the massive Altona derby when Altona East host Altona City in the battle of the oil refinery!

State 3 SE saw Dandenong City send a loud and clear message to the rest of the league that they are going for the championship after a 6-0 mauling of Diamond Valley United, who are still in the promotion fight.

A delighted Dandenong City coach Joe Biskic tried to explain the bigger than expected winning margin. " Especially the second half everything went for us. Every game we create three of four chances minimum, but today the difference was we put away those chances. Unfortunately for Diamond Valley it happened today. In the first 30 minutes we had lots of possession. They gave us lots of space. Sometimes as a player when you have too much time on the ball, sometimes you make easy mistakes and that's what happened in the first 30 minutes before we scored.

Today it was crucial to win this game. We have two more important games in front of us. If we pick up these maximum points we have a chance to extend our lead. If someone said before the game today, a 1-0 win for us, I would've taken it. I didn't know it was going to be 6-0. I have to give credit to my guys. They played really well. They deserved it."

Dandenong City remain on top by 2 points over Eastern Lions who themselves smashed strugglers Knox City 5-0 away. Morwell Pegasus also had a crunching 5-0 win at home over Box Hill United. Next week in this league



Vlado Juric scores a double as Dandenong City spanked Diamond Valley 6-0 in the top of the table clash in State League Two South-East. Photo: STEVE STAREK



Leigh Wilkinson gets his second yellow in the 90th minute. Photo: ANITA MILAS

no real games stand out but let's hope for plenty of fast, free flowing football.

State 3 NW saw Avondale Heights jump into second place after a thumping 2-1 win over Melbourne University, Avondale have snuck under the radar but surely will be a hunted team now after claiming such a big scalp. Keilor Park remain on top but their lead remains only 1 point after being held to a 1-1 draw away at Cairnlea in this week's match of the round. The kebabs were also hot and consumed in copious amounts at Whittlesea United as Hume United won the much anticipated Turkish derby 2-0. Match of the week next week is the battle of the parks, when top placed Keilor take on third place Sydenham.

State 3 SE saw the Peninsula Strikers win in a thrilling 5-4 battle at home to Fitzroy City. The bourgeois boys from Old Scotch took top spot off Kingston after a fresh 3-0 win away to Waverley Wanderers but top place may only be provisional as Kingston can retake top spot tonight when they host the struggling Croydon City Arrows. Morning-

ton remain in the promotion mix after winning the huge Sunday battle 3-2 at North Caulfield today. Next week Kingston will face 3rd placed Mornington away in the match of the week.

Provisional 1 NW saw the big two team, Corio and North Sunshine both drop points. This allowed South Yarra move into second after a 2-0 over Laverton Park. Corio was held 0-0 at home to Westvale. North Sunshine went down 2-1 to the North City Lions. The artists formerly known as Lalor FC, Sporting Whittlesea, had a convincing 1-0 win over the mighty Western Eagles. This league keeps throwing up surprises and therefore is very tight, one win can see your team ump 3-4 places. Next I recommend you get down to the Polish Sports and Recreation Centre for the huge clash between Western Eagles and Corio, the Polish-Hungarian freindship will be strained as both teams will go tooth and nail for the 3 points.

Provisional 1 SE saw the top of the table blockbuster between Springvale City and Hampton United end in a dull 0-0 draw which means Springvale re-

main on top by 2 points over Hampton who are in second but only by goal difference as Beaumaris had a thrilling 5-3 win over Lyndale United. This week Provisional 1 SE saw some very big scorelines, Skye United 2 Warragul United 7, Old Camberwell 2 Old Melbourne 6, Sandringham 4 Brandon Park 1. Warragul are also in the promotion fight after their win and host top place Springvale City next week, how will the Springvale boys go in Gippsland ? Only time will tell.

Provisional 2 NW saw a huge 1-0 win for Moreland United over Hoppers Crossing to knock Hopper's off the top of the table and drop them down into third! Moreland sit on top now after their mountain conquering effort with West Preston in second but only by goal difference after a 3-1 win over Northern Roosters. Epping City keep the top teams in sight after a confidence boosting 4-0 win over Melbourne Tornado. Next week again it's hard to pick a match of the round so I'll put up the mid-table meeting of two honorable teams as this week's match

of the round, Elwood City vs Upfield, be there!

Provisional 2 SE saw Monbulk pull of the win of the round, 5-0 over league leaders Caulfield United! The hugh win has given Monbulk the goal difference to jump Caulfield into top spot by goal difference only. This league is insansely close, Monbulk on top is only 2 points ahead of Casey Kings in 9th. Because of this I declare all of next week's games in Provisional 2 SE as crunch games of equal importance ! It will be interesting to see how this league pans out over the next few weeks.

Provisional 3 NW as always had some high scoring and highly entertaining games. Essendon Royals continued on their merry way with a 4-0 win at Mill Park. Moreland Wolves are in second 3 points behind the Royals after a 3-2 win at Youth United. Moreland jumped Brunswick Zebras into second after the Zebras failed 1-0 at Darebin United. Melton showed there is some fight left in them after picking up their first point of the year, a 1-1 draw with Meadow Park Eagles. Next week it is

worth checking out Moreland Wolves vs Darebin United.

Provisional 3 SE almost saw a huge upset, mid-tabled White Star Dandenong lead high-fliers undefeated Middle Park 3-2 in the second half but the Middle Park boys rallied and scored 3 unanswered goals to win 5-3. Collingwood also remain undefeated after a hard-fought 2-1 win at Old Brighton. Collingwood are on top 3 points ahead of Middle Park who have played one less game. East Bentleigh remain without a single point after a very disappointing loss to fellow cellar dwellers Eltham Redbacks 1-0 at home. Next week check out Middle Park vs East Bentleigh as there would be a slaughter worth watching.

Anyway folks, that's it for me. Make sure you get out to support your local club as they need you ! Get to the game, buy some of their food and cheer your loudest for your team!

CRUNCHALOR!



The legendary Josip Biskic now coaching Dandenong City gives some words of advice to Roger Machado who scored two goals and almost concussed himself. Photo: ANITA MILAS



Happy Buzz! Photo: STEVE STAREK



Roger Machado tries to stop his Diamond Valley opponent. Photo:STEVE STAREK

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NEW FIRST DIVISION LEADERS

Southern Stars are the new first division leaders after their win at Western Suburbs on Sunday.

The Stars replace Port Melbourne Sharks at the top after the former leader was held to consecutive 1-1 draws. In the final game of round 6, Bulleen Lions held Port Melbourne to a 1-1 draw and Langwarrin did likewise in the opening game of round 7. Port Melbourne still holds a 4 point lead over 3rd placed Whittlesea, who have a game in hand. The Preston Lions maintained their revival with with an impressive 2-0 win over Altona Magic to move into 5th place. The rest of the teams have to keep looking over their shoulders, as the gap between 6th and the 12th placed team is only 4 points.

This league is far from over for any position with any team capable of beating anyone on the day. The margin in most matches is so fine, it only takes a little luck to decide the result.

SHARKS LOSE TOP SPOT PORT MELBOURNE SHARKS 1 LANGWARRIN 1

Langwarrin’s display against table topping Port Melbourne on Friday proved to all, this team is going to have a say at the business end of the season. Langwarrin was more than a match for the Sharks and with a little bit of luck Gus McLeod’s team could have taken all 3 points. There was plenty for the fans to talk about after this controversial contest with several bookings, a red card, the cross-bar rattled on three occasions, and also a disallowed goal to Langwarrin. The visitors shocked the leaders by taking the lead within the first 2 minutes when Port Melbourne turned over the ball allowing Steve Bellerini to open the scoring. Port proceeded to take control after the early set back and mounted several attacks without ever looking threatening. The visitors came out full of fight after the break and launched a series of attacks, but couldn’t find the killer goal. Port Melbourne was back in it when the referee awarded a penalty kick for an uncompromising tackle by Langwarrin’s keeper. Ryan O’Hare converted the spot kick to start a drama filled second half. A few minutes later Langwarrin scored, but their joy was cut short when the Referee’s assistant ruled out the goal for offside. It was a close call that angered the Langwarrin side and brought much relief of Port Melbourne. Langwarrin’s night soured when Boris Ovkin was sent off in the 60th minute leaving Langy with only 10 men for the final 30 minutes. Port seized the initiative and applied pressure in search of a winning goal. Despite having plenty of the ball and plenty of added time, the Sharks could not find the killer blow and had to be satisfied with a share of the points. The 2 points dropped means the Sharks drop down to second place allowing Southern Stars

pole position.

FLAHERTY NICKS IT FOR ZEBRAS NORTH GEELONG WARRIORS 0 WHITTLESEA ZEBRAS 1

The visiting Whittlesea Zebras was a very happy camp after taking all 3 points from Elcho Park in a very competitive round 7 encounter with North Geelong. The very late win puts Whittlesea back on track after the shock exit from the Mirabella Cup, when the Zebras went down 2-3 to Cobram Victory a few days earlier. The only goal of the game arrived in the 87th minute from the Zebra’s leading scorer Vince Faherty, who unleashed a shot from 25 metres that nestled in the top corner of the net. The Irishman has been the recruit of the year for Whittlesea and proved once again what a valuable acquisition he has been, by popping up in the nick of time to give his side all 3 points. North Geelong was under the pump going into this game having lost two of their better players to V.P.L. side St. Albans, but once again the youngsters from Elcho Park, rose to the challenge and more than matched it with third placed Whittlesea. North Geelong’s midfield pressed forward at every opportunity and created several good scoring chances that the strikers weren’t able to convert. It was always going to take something special to win this match and when it came it was worth the long wait. The goal thrilled the visiting supporters, but for the home team it was a cruel blow after it appeared North Geelong had done enough to get a share of the points. Warriors coach Ante Skoko was disappointed with the late defeat, but told his team, “that is the difference between a team at the top and one in the lower half of this division”

SKY BLUES WIN BATTLE OF THE BLUES PASCOE VALE 0 FAWKNER BLUES 2

The Fawknor Blues came away with all 3 points from their visit to Hosken Reserve after defeating near neighbour Pascoe Vale 2-0. It was an evenly contested game with the home team having slightly more of the possession and Fawknor the more clinical side in attack. Pascoe Vale coach George Karkaletsis was a very disappointed man after seeing his side lose their 5th game this season. Pascoe Vale went into this game full of confidence following the good result at Western Suburbs the previous week, but at the end of this game, it was back to the drawing board for Karkaletsis and his men, as they digest what went wrong. Pascoe Vale had their chances, but lacked a quality striker like Fawknor’s Robert Dolevski, whose two superbly taken goals made all the difference in the end. The battle for midfield supremacy was intense with both teams having control at times. The bumpy pitch didn’t assist either team,



Chris Toleski (Preston) dispossesses George Papasopoulos (Altona).

PHOTO: JOHN PUNSHON

as both sides like to play the ball on the ground. Fawknor marked Pascoe Vale’s danger man very closely and were willing to fight for every ball throughout the 90 minutes. At times Fawknor rode their luck, but to their credit the Blues made use of their limited chances for a merited win.

DRAW HELPS NEITHER TEAM SUNSHINE CROSS 0 FC BULLEEN LIONS 0

The 0-0 draw between Sunshine George Cross and Bulleen Lions did little to help either team’s cause with both teams remaining stranded at the foot of the table. Sunshine dominated this game from the start and can count themselves unfortunate not to have taken all 3 points. The home team applied a lot of pressure forcing Bulleen to defend for long periods. The Georgies scored what looked a perfectly good goal after 19 minutes when Barry Devlin jumped above the pack to head home a Brendan Beni free kick. The goal was ruled out for offside. After 28 minutes Tony Saric struck the cross-bar from 25 metres that beat Patrick Ndongo all ends up. Bulleen was finding it difficult getting close to Sunshine’s goal with only a Mario Roza intercept ahead of Anthony Ramzy being the only threat in the first half. The second half continued in the same vein with Sunshine’s George Slefendorfas wasting good opportunities in

front of goal. The Georgies became frustrated at not being able to put away any of their chances, and it could have been so much worse in the 88 minute, when Bulleen’s Anthony Ramzy beat the offside trap and was through on goal. Mario Roza came out and narrowed the angle and got his foot to the ball to earn his team a point from this game.

THE LIONS ADD MAGIC TO THEIR LIST PRESTON LIONS 2 ALTONA MAGIC 0

Preston Lions are the proud holders of the Traianedes - Micevski Cup after winning the Macedonian derby 2-0 over Altona Magic at Paisley Park. It was the home team who outwitted Altona scoring two second half goals, as Preston continue their great revival. Preston has now secured 10 points from the past 4 games, as the Lions continue to surge up the ladder. Preston took out bragging rights in this very physical contest that was fairly even in a scoreless first half. Magic had a couple of good opportunities when Koc Delev was through on goal but was denied by a good save by Hamid Kamali. At the other end Magic’s Tommy Tomich was called into action saving a certain goal. George Papdopoulos also saw his effort thwarted by the Preston keeper. The home crowd was in full voice 5 minutes into the second half when a quickly taken free kick by John Sapazovski caught the Altona

Magic defence napping. Kliment Dimitrieski was found free and he opened the scoring to give Preston the lead. Preston was happy to play on the break relying on the wily skills of John Sapazovski up front. Sapazovski combined well with Tony Sterjovski allowing Kliment Dimitrieski to get on the end of a cut back to score his second for the afternoon. Altona tried to get back into the game, but Preston had their measure, with the Magic making little impression in attack.

STARS SPARKLE TO TOP WESTERN SUBURBS SOUTHERN STARS

It has been one hell of a week down at Western Suburbs with the resignation of coach Lorenz Kindtner and the exit of veteran goalkeeper Bojo Jevdjovic. The club did appointed Huss Skendrovic in lead up to this game and Western Suburbs can take heart with the fighting first up performance. After a very even opening 30 minutes, it was Southern Stars who opened the scoring following a corner kick that was only cleared to the edge of the penalty area. Stars midfielder Alan Kearney shot the rebound goal-wards and looked to have scored only to denied by Suburbs defender Jason Corbett who blocked the shot with his hands. The referee had no option but to send the player off and award a penalty that Kearney himself converted. Despite being a man down Sub-

SL1 RESULTS
Port Melbourne 1 Langwarrin 1
North Geelong Warriors 0 Whittlesea Zebras 1 (V Faherty)
Pascoe Vale 0 Fawknor Blues 2 (R Dolevski 2)
Preston Lions 2 Altona Magic 0
Sunshine George Cross 0 FC Bulleen Lions 0
Western Suburbs 0 Southern Stars 2
U21:
Port Melbourne 3 Langwarrin 1, North Geelong Warriors 0 Whittlesea Zebras 1, Pascoe Vale 2 Fawknor Blues 2, Western Suburbs 1 Southern Stars 0, Preston Lions 0 Altona Magic 0, Sunshine George Cross 2 FC Bulleen Lions 4

SL1 LADDER							
	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Southern Stars	7	6	0	1	14	7	18
Port Melbourne	7	5	2	0	13	5	17
Whittlesea Z	6	4	1	1	8	4	13
Fawknor Blues	7	4	0	3	11	6	12
Preston Lions	7	3	1	3	14	15	10
Langwarrin	6	2	2	2	7	9	8
Western Sub	7	2	2	3	9	13	8
Altona Magic	6	2	1	3	6	8	7
Pascoe Vale	7	2	0	5	10	8	6
North Geelong	7	2	0	5	6	14	6
Bulleen Lions	7	1	2	4	4	8	5
Sun George X	6	1	1	4	5	10	4

SL1 Next Round
Altona Magic v Pascoe Vale Paisley Park Sat 28 May KO 3:00PM
Fawknor Blues v Southern Stars CB Smith Reserve Sat 28 May KO 3:00PM
Langwarrin v Sunshine George Cross Lawton Park Reserve Sat 28 May KO 3:00PM
FC Bulleen Lions v Preston Lions Veneto Social Club Sat 28 May KO 3:15PM
Whittlesea Zebras v Port Melbourne Epping Soccer Stadium Sun 29 May KO 3:00PM
Western Suburbs v North Geelong Ralph Reserve Sun 29 May KO 3:00PM

SL1 U21 LADDER							
	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Bulleen Lions	7	6	0	1	28	8	18
Western Sub	7	6	0	1	18	14	18
Southern Stars	7	4	1	2	19	14	13
Fawkner Blues	7	3	2	2	14	15	11
North Geelong	7	3	1	3	15	10	10
Pascoe Vale	7	3	1	3	18	16	10
Whittlesea Z	6	3	1	2	13	11	10
Langwarrin	6	3	0	3	10	10	9
Sun George X	6	1	2	3	15	21	5
Port Melbourne	7	1	2	4	8	16	5
Altona Magic	6	0	3	3	6	14	3

urbs didn’t go into their shell and took the game up to the league contenders. They worked hard for each other and posed a threat for the entire second half. Southern Stars added a second goal after 70 minutes when a shot on goal was parried into the path of Velibor Mitrovic who scored from close range. Southern Stars coach Dean Hennessey was far from happy with his team’s performance. He was however relieved to come away from Ralph Reserve with 3 points that elevated his team to the top of the ladder.



V-LEAGUE

NIKE PREMIERSHIP Round Three

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Promoted sides find life difficult in the V-League

By Matthew Montgomery

FC Melbourne v Albert Park (6-5)

The first game of the night to kick-start round 3 was between 10th placed Melbourne and 12th ranked Albert Park. As both sides are near the foot of the table, it would seem that a win would provide a great confidence boost for the victor. The Melbourne boys had the better start in the first half, racing to a 2-0 lead with forwards Mael Guilliou and in form striker David Fletcher combining well. Albert Park finished the first half the stronger side as they were constantly peppering the Melbourne goal. The Oranges also had two chances from the second penalty spot, but only young forward Josh Berrios was able to convert. The second half, like the first, was very tense as both sides went goal for goal. When Albert Park captain Jason Ioanidis levelled with only minutes remaining, one would have thought that the Oranges were going to claim their first point of the season. But with a swift move from Melbourne manager Chris Gospel, utility Mael Guilliou was able to expose the Oranges defence to score the winner with only seconds remaining. Although Albert Park had put in a spirited performance and had created many chances, it was FC Melbourne who stood tall, led by Elias Stavridis in defence. Melbourne played with an incredible team spirit and belief in each other, and if this form continues, the rest of the league will be looking over their shoulder in the race for the top eight.

Ashburton v FC Essendon (7-9)

The second clash of the night could have been dubbed 'the bipolar clash' as in recent weeks both Ashburton and Essendon have put in fluctuating performances. In order to gain early season momentum, this game had a lot riding on the final result, as a win for either side would take them into the top eight. Quality striker Simon La Manda made a return to the V-League for Ashburton and Dusan Bosniak was welcomed into the Essendon line-up. And what a return it was, as Bosniak, the former Mickleham striker, scored 3 for the match. His constant run and carry had set up the win for Essendon as they raced to a 4-0 lead in the first half, only for Ashburton's talisman James Blackburn to score two much needed goals to keep his side in the game 5-4 at the break. The second half saw Ashburton defender Rodrigo put in one of the most inspiring defensive efforts this season as he chased and harassed constantly, but it would be to no avail as Essendon's star striker Alex Stevanovic booted 3 to take his match tally to 5 goals. A special mention needs to go out to Essendon keeper Peter Vlahos, who kept with a broken finger for almost the entire match. It was truly a very courageous performance as many would have thrown in the towel.

Nth Melb FC v FC Prahran (9-7)

For the second week in a row, FC Prahran were to take on fellow top four (and title) aspirants North Melbourne FC. The final result of this game would really give a good indication as to what both squads were capable of. The mood was set for an enticing encounter. An Adam Cooper strike, almost immediately after kick off seemed to rattle the Prahran boys, but they were able to compose themselves to lead 5-3 at half time. Prahran boasted 5 individual goal scorers, clearly displaying the depth of



FC Melbourne's match winner Mael Guilliou (L) beats Albert Park's Chris Yang (R) to a header.



Fitzroy keeper Dianoosh Rasoulzadeh was instrumental in his sides surprise win over Hume.

their squad. But when the second half arrived Prahran seemed to take their foot off the pedal as they dropped their intensity. Sensing their opportunity, the North boys went into overdrive. Cooper's long-range shots allowed him to score two for the match and gifted Mirza Pedic two goal line tap-ins on his way to a hat trick. North playmaker Tiago Priori also had a standout game as he constantly pressured the ball and created chances for his teammates. With a brace from defender Clint Mogoi, Prahran had their chances. They are very close to a win. Maybe their chance will come next round against an unsettled Ashburton?

Brunswick v Pascoe Vale (3-5)

One of the more organised teams in the league, CF Brunswick had nothing to lose going into their round 3 clash, as they have been able to recruit current Futsalroo Danny Ngaluafe and boast one of the most prolific forward partnerships of the entire league in Munya Nyadzayo (7 season goals) and Rus Roslan (5).

Being led into battle by fearless captain Matthew Piga, the Brunswick boys would put in one of the performances of the season. You could feel the tension all throughout the stadium as both sides gave everything they had to win the ball. The Pascoe Vale boys, who are used to being able to control the tempo of the game looked a little concerned as Brunswick stayed within striking distance, 2-1 at half-time. Brunswick, who led 3-2 in the second half will be left scratching their heads as key forwards Nydzayo and Roslan were held goal-less. Luckily Damir Marusic stepped up and delivered a crucial brace, and Ngaluafe scored and absolute cracker into the top corner to claim goal of the week. But as they say, "quality always rises to the top" and that's exactly what happened. 'Vale's' Star striker Joao Da Silva stepped up with the game tied at 3-3 to complete a game-breaking brace and playmaker Brenno Polatti scored a goal which sent the crowd into raptures. It was a match of the highest quality (controversial decisions aside) in which

both sides can take positives out of the game. The champs withheld a genuine challenge and Brunswick could have defeated the best side in the league.

FC Balwyn v Metropolitan (6-11)

FC Balwyn have had a somewhat unlucky start to their inaugural V-League campaign. In their opening two games they have been put up against two top sides in Prahran and Fitzroy, and it's not getting any easier for Matt Obeid's Balwyn boys as they face undefeated and highly motivated Metropolitan FC, who welcomed the return of Husmir Ikanovic and Ivan Zilic. The first half was a very tight contested affair as both keepers were constantly tested. Balwyn keeper, Mario Roza battled hard and organised his defence well, but could not stop an Irzad Spijodic rocket that caught him off guard to keep the score 2-2 at the break. In the second half, Balwyn came to play as forward Jason Barrientos and Ben Bodo bagged 3 and 2 goals for the match respectively. The V-League new boys then found themselves leading 6-5



Pascoe Vale embrace each other as they dug deep to escape defeat at the hands of worthy opponents Brunswick.



North Melbourne's Tiago Priori (L) and Alec Jankovic (R) celebrate a goal in their sides impressive performance against Prahran.

with only 7 minutes remaining. A very positive sign for the underdogs. Metro looked down and out, but as all champion sides are able to do, they found a way to win. Led by Irzad Spijodic, who booted 4, along with defenders Jusuf Avdic and Tomo Grgic (2 each), the sky blues kicked 6 un-answered goals to run out 11-6 victors. It was a truly remarkable performance! Is this the breakthrough season the Metro boys have waited so long for? With three hard fought wins on the trot, things are certainly looking up for last season's league and cup runners-up. As for Balwyn, they really need a key defender to sit back and help them to defend when they have a lead.

Fitzroy FC v Hume FC (6-4)

In the final game of the round, Fitzroy went to battle against a Hume side brimming with confidence after last week's impressive win against Prahran. Hume manager, Amin Keddad would have been quite wary that influential Fitzroy keeper Dianoosh Rasoulzadeh was back between the sticks after serving a

lengthy suspension. Dianoosh's impact on Fitzroy's style of play was huge. They kept and passed the ball like a team full of confidence, with forwards Hamid HassaniKhoos and Cameron Holmes combining well as they scored two goals each. The 'Roys' defensive pairing of Shayan Rashidi and Iman Arjomand looked as solid as ever when they both contributed a goal each. Manager Ali Rasoulzadeh should take a bow, as he has got this Fitzroy squad running like a well-oiled machine. The same cannot be said about Hume who were only a shadow of their efforts against Prahran. Their attacking threat of Burukhan Koca and Turhan Sumbol were limited to a goal each, their long range rifles were ineffective against the organised Dianoosh. Although steely defender Moe Tankir battled for his side, it was not enough to prevent their second loss for the season. It was a great team performance from Fitzroy, now sitting 3rd on the ladder.

V-League Standings

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
1 Pascoe Vale FC	3	3	0	0	23	9	14	9
2 Metropolitan FC	3	3	0	0	25	15	10	9
3 Fitzroy FC	3	3	0	0	19	11	8	9
4 Nth Melbourne FC	3	2	1	0	30	18	12	7
5 FC Essendon	3	2	0	1	22	26	-4	6
6 CF Brunswick	3	1	0	2	17	16	1	3
7 FC Prahran	3	1	0	2	17	20	-3	3
8 Hume FC	3	1	0	2	16	19	-3	3
9 FC Melbourne	3	1	0	2	15	18	-3	3
10 Ashburton FC	3	0	1	2	16	24	-8	1
11 FC Balwyn	3	0	0	3	12	22	-10	0
12 Albert Park FC	3	0	0	3	12	26	-14	0

NIKE V-LEAGUE RESULTS Wed May 18th

•6:30	FC Melbourne v Albert Park FC	6 - 5
•7:15	FC Essendon v Ashburton FC	9 - 7
•8:00	FC Prahran v Nth Melbourne FC	7 - 9
•8:45	CF Brunswick v Pascoe Vale FC	3 - 5
•9:30	FC Balwyn v Metropolitan FC	6 - 11
•10:15	Fitzroy FC v Hume FC	6 - 4

NIKE V-LEAGUE ROUND 4 Wed May 25th

•6:30	FC Balwyn v Albert Park FC	
•7:15	FC Melbourne v CF Brunswick	
•8:00	FC Essendon v Pascoe Vale FC	
•8:45	Fitzroy FC v Nth Melbourne FC	
•9:30	FC Prahran v Ashburton FC	
•10:15	Hume FC v Metropolitan FC	

NIKE V-LEAGUE Top Goal Scorers

1. A. Redzepovic Metro FC 8 Goals
2. M. Nyadzayo CFB 7 Goals
3. I. Spijodic Metro FC 7 Goals
4. A. Stevanovic FCE 7 Goals

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Futbol Town Show
every Tuesday 7pm
on C31 and C44 Digital
FUTSAL TV



BENTLEIGH GREENS



1

HEIDELBERG UNITED



1

Match Details

Bentleigh Greens: Peter GAVALAS, Craig SMART, James McGARRY (Sean McIlroy 73'), Wayne WALLACE, Alex ROJAS (Adam Fadljevic 73'), Aron WILFORD, Ryan DAVIDSON, Jack WEBSTER, Luke PILKINGTON, Stuart NICHOLSON, Ryan DE VRIES (Michael Gwyther 63')

unused subs: Luke Gavalas, , Declan Keogh,

Yellow Cards: Davidson 28', Webster 74', Smart 80'

Red Card: Webster 75'

Goal: Nicholson 81'

Best Players: Wallace, De Vries, Gavalas

Heidelberg United: Griffin McMASTER, Les DOUMBALIS, Steve MARTIN, Craig ELVIN, Ben WARING, Andrew NABBOUT (Takanori Nishimoto 61'), Evan CHRISTODOLOU, Richard GREER, Hamlet ARMENIAN, Sasho ALEXOVSKI (Jason Samargis 82'), Osage EDERARO

Unused subs: George Papadopoulos, , Matt Tancevski, , Jason Koutsoudontis

Yellow Cards: Greer 9', Armenian 51'

Red Card: Ederaro 75'

Goal: Alexovski 65'

Best Players: Alexovski, McMaster, Elvin

Greens, Bergers share the spoils

By Rory Flanagan

Bentleigh and Heidelberg repeated the score line from their second round clash with a 1-1 draw on Friday night at Kingston Heath Soccer Complex.

Sasho Alexovski and Stuart Nicholson registered two superb goals for their respective sides. Whilst the home side featured three fresh faces as well as the returning Alex Rojas, the Bergers were unchanged following their dismantling of Richmond last week.

The first chance fell to the left boot of Andrew Nabbout after 6 minutes. The ex-Georgies man drew an impressive save from Peter Gavalas after a vicious strike towards the top corner. Sasho Alexovski illustrated his playmaking prowess after playing in Evan Christodoulou, but again Gavalas thwarted the visitors with a strong save from an identical angle as before.

The Greens registered their first shot on target after a determined run from one of their most consistent and integral players this season, Wayne Wallace. However, the powerful box to box midfielder couldn't beat Griffin McMaster from 16 yards.

Departing Dandenong due to a lack of game time, Rojas returned to the thick of the action in Bentleigh's midfield and looked comfortable with plenty of touches on the ball. Bentleigh came close to breaking the deadlock after Ryan De Vries' cross bounced awkwardly inside the Heidelberg area. Wayne Wallace looped a miscued volley onto the crossbar which was followed up by Stuart Nicholson's overhead volley straight into the hands of McMaster.

The second half was of stark contrast to the first, with chances aplenty, the first and second fell in quick succession to Ryan De Vries and James McGarry re-



Gotta hand it to the man! Bentleigh's Stuart Nicholson scores late in the game and puts a halt to Heidelberg's scintillating form of late. Photo: ANITA MILAS

spectively. De Vries shot straight at McMaster with the follow up from McGarry failing to find the back of the net. Out to impress on debut, De Vries was putting on a tantalising display with his pace and trickery. After skinning his marker yet again, he cut into the box from the left but yet again

couldn't beat McMaster with the angle favouring the 'keeper. Having a rather quiet game by last week's standards, Hamlet Armenian began to come into the contest the longer it wore on. He delivered a wicked cross that caused problems for the greens defensive contingent, and five minutes later he could have as-

sisted the opener but failed to find Evan Christodoulou, left unmarked at the far post. De Vries was cramping up and was replaced by fellow Waitakere debutant Michael Gwyther after a convincing 63 minute debut. Immediately after the substitution, the Bergers snatched the

lead. A poorly cleared defensive header fell to Sasho Alexovski who struck a venomous volley into the bottom right corner of Gavalas net. The textbook finish was Alexovski's seventh goal of the season and arguably his best in terms of execution.

With fifteen minutes remaining, Jack Webster was dismissed for two bookable offences in the space of 45 seconds. Osage Ederaro also earned himself an early departure for giving Webster – who had gotten the better of Ederaro on the night – a verbal send off. Luke Pilkington shifted to left back in place of Webster. As both sides were down to ten men, space became abundant and Bentleigh equalised with a stunning counterattacking goal in the 81st minute. Breaking from the backline, the greens charged forward and Nicholson was on hand to hammer home from 16 yards and send the home crowd into frenzy.

On as a substitute for Andrew Nabbout, Takanori could have covered himself in glory when he ran through on goal, yet he blew his one on one opportunity with Gavalas, hitting the base of the post. Fellow substitute Jason Samargis was in a similar position to Nishimoto and this time got his shot on target only to be denied by a brilliant piece of goalkeeping by the Greens skipper who rushed out off his line in the blink of an eye.

Tired legs and poor concentration saw the skill level deteriorate and the game drew to a close with several missed opportunities due to a lack of a quality final pass or cross.

Still undefeated John Anastasiadis said post game "I'm starting to get sick of draws, we need to get a win to put us in that top bracket and hopefully, that'll happen in the coming weeks with the new players we've got."



Peter Gavalas can only watch as Saso Alexovski's effort goes in. Photo: ANITA MILAS



Friday night action from Kingston Heath. Photo: ANITA MILAS

1

3

Match Details

Richmond: S.Gal, E.Karahan, R.Antoniadis, M.Bissinger, D.Tsiaras, T.Purcell (M.Eterovic 46'), S.Muirhead, M.Catalano, D.Bonne (S.Wilson 65'), A.Kovacic (C.O'Hare 65'), M.Ferrante.

Goal: Ferrante 36'

Yellow Cards: Ferrante 30'

Red Cards: None

Hume City: L.Acevski, S.Pace, S.Pir, F.Dilizia, I.Erdogan, M.Bosevski, R.Cardozo, A.Vlahos (F.Alex 66'), A.Ofli (S.Weir 81'), R.Thompson (D.Delic 72'), M.Pistininzi.

Goals: Cardozo 8' Vlahos 33' Ofli 48'

Yellow Cards: Pistininzi 32' Vlahos 35'

Red Cards: Dilizia 35'

Hume Sweeps Away Eagles

By Mark Boric

HUME CITY continued their march the the 2011 AVPL Finals Series with a 3-1 win over Richmond at Kevin Bartlett Reserve on Saturday.

Unbeaten in four games entering the encounter, Hume made two changes to the team which beat St Albans 4-1 in the previous round. Steven Pace returned from injury with Mark Pistininzi also coming into the starting line-up in place of Steven Weir and the suspended Phillip Riccobene.

Richmond brought new signings Scott Muirhead and Devon Bonne straight into the team, along with Antun Kovacic who returned from a shoulder injury.

After a cold few weeks the sun returned to provide glorious conditions as the game commenced. Debutant Muirhead was providing a spark for Richmond, but the home side's promising start was undone after eight minutes following a long kick out from Lou Acevski. Player/coach Andy Vlahos gathered the ball and released former Eagle Richie Cardozo in plenty of space on the left. Stjepan Gal came out off his line but he was never going to get near Cardozo who coolly slotted home his eighth goal of the season.

Kovacic picked out Erhan Karahan with a neat ball in the fifteenth minute, which Karahan headed inside for Muirhead to run onto and cross to the far post, but the Eagles failed to get enough bodies into the box to capitalise. Shortly after Muirhead pulled the ball back across goal from the line and



Dimi Tsiaras wins the header and sandwiches Ross Thompson between himself and Michael Catalano in the process Photo: JOHN PUNSHON

once again nobody was on hand to apply a finishing touch before the ball was finally cleared. A ball inside from Timmy Purcell provided Muirhead with a shooting opportunity, but his effort failed to trouble Acevski greatly.

A poor turnover by Pace saw Michael Catalano get the ball out to Muirhead who had a shot blocked, the rebound bouncing off him for a goal-kick in the twenty-fourth minute. Two minutes later the bouncing ball beat Kovacic allowing Atilla Ofli to run in on goal, Gal producing a brilliant save to prevent his side falling further behind. Mark Pistininzi went into referee Hakan Anaz's book in the thirty-second minute for a two-footed challenge on Dimitri Tsiaras.

A quick counter attack in the thirty-third minute saw Hume extended their lead to 2-0. Ofli carried the ball before picking out Vlahos on the left, who finished with a brilliant chip to put his side well on top. Richmond were given a lifeline just three minutes later. A persistent run from Catalano saw him break through a group of players at the top of the penalty area, eventually rounding Acevski at the corner of the six yard box before his shot was handled by Fabio Dilizia. Dilizia received his marching orders, and Michael Ferrante stepped up to convert the spot kick.

The score remained unchanged into the half-time break. Richmond introduced Mate Eterovic after the interval, in place of Purcell as they sought to find the width to expose the undermanned City side. It was Hume who would strike first how-

ever, extending their lead just three minutes back into play. Richmond failed to deal with a corner kick, which fell to ground where Isyan Erdogan had a shot which was fell into the path of Ofli just wide of the near post. Ofli gathered the ball to turn and shoot, beating Gal from close range to make it 3-1.

Ferrante tried his luck on the run from thirty yards after the ball favourably bounced ahead of him off his shoulder, the strike just going over the crossbar. A slip from Kovacic saw Ofli through on goal again, but his shot went into the side netting. Richmond were failing to make any inroads in attack and the ten-man Hume looked comfortable in controlling affairs.

There was some action late in the game, beginning with a free-kick from Cardozo striking the post in the eighty-fifth minute. Muirhead then curled a shot just wide from the right after a cross to the far post was cleared to him. Acevski went down late on after claiming a free-kick from wide on the right by Ferrante unchallenged. Play was halted for several minutes before Erdogan eventually donned the gloves, with Hume having already made all their substitutions. He was untested in the final two minutes, as Hume continued to see out an impressive 3-1 victory.

Hume will travel to Olympic Village next Sunday to meet fellow Finals aspirant Heidelberg United. Things will not get any easier for the Richmond, who face the difficult visit to Dandenong Thunder as they seek points to get them away from the relegation zone.



Erhan Karahan is stretched to try and stop Atilla Ofli. Photo: JOHN PUNSHON



Captain-coach Andy Vlahos (right) and scorer, Atilla Ofli delighted. Mark Pistininzi comes in to offer his congratulations. Photo: JOHN PUNSHON

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Supersub Sanders Saves Gully

By David Manuca

A second half strike from Mathew Sanders salvaged Green Gully a point against league leaders Oakleigh Cannons at Green Gully Reserve on Saturday afternoon.

Jimmy Downey gave Oakleigh the lead five minutes before half-time but Sanders was on hand to net Green Gully the equalizer with his first touch of the ball, minutes after coming on as a substitute late in the second-half.

The Cavaliers surge for the top-five continues as they are now undefeated in their past four outings. Oakleigh's lead at the top of the Premier League table was cut down to just one point after Hume City picked up a win against Richmond on Saturday.

Green Gully manager, Lubo Lapsansky, made just one change to his starting eleven that defeated South Melbourne 3-2 in the last round.

Simon Storey was given his first start, replacing the rather inconsistent Andy Vargas.

Oakleigh boss, Arthur Papas, made two changes to the side that beat Northcote City 4-3 last week. James Robinson started in place of Ante Cicak and goalkeeper Peter Zois was dropped for Daniel Nee-sham.

There were four former Melbourne Victory players on the field, with Simon Storey playing for Green Gully and Ramazan Tavsancioglu, James Robinson and Ricky Diaco playing for Oakleigh.

And it was Diaco who almost got Oakleigh off to the perfect start. After a pass from Robinson, Diaco controlled the ball well with his first touch before unleashing a strike from right the edge of the area but it cannoned off the post.

Dale Milovanovic had the next chance of the game but he blasted his shot from outside the box high and wide.

Milovanovic then turned provider laying the ball off to Jimmy Downey for a shot outside the box which he dragged just wide of the post.

Green Gully went down the other end instantly and almost took the lead. Jason Hayne was played in one-on-one with Neesham but Obradovic recovered brilliantly to prevent Hayne getting a shot on goal.

Two minutes later Anthony Bran fouled Hayne about 25 yards out and received a yellow card. Graham Hockless whipped in the free-kick which was initially cleared.

Simon Storey retrieved the ball and sent a cross to the back post where Brent Fisher headed the ball back into the centre of the area. Medjedovic attempted a bicycle-kick but his effort went wide.

Storey prevented it going out for a goal-kick and once again put the ball back in the area with a number of shots blocked by the Oakleigh defence.

After some scrambling in the box by both sides the ball fell to Hockless just on the edge of the area and he hit the ball first-time but his shot went agonizingly wide of the post.

But, arguably, against the run-of-play, it was Oakleigh who took the lead. Jimmy Downey somehow squeezed through the centre of the Gully defence and netted the first goal of the game with a clinical finish past Nikola Roganovic.

Green Gully almost found themselves level right from the restart. Hockless worked the ball to Hayne out on right and the New Zealanders whipped in a dangerous ball to Simon Storey in the centre of the area but his looping header was brilliantly saved and pushed over the bar by Oakleigh goalkeeper Daniel Neesham.

The Cavaliers were pulled up for a number of offsidcs throughout the match. On the hour mark



Oakleigh's Rama Tavsancioglu tries to get his boot in front of Green Gully's Brent Fisher.
PHOTO: DANIEL FLIS

Hockless played a through-ball to Hayne which would have put him one-on-one with Neesham but the assistant referee wrongly ruled him offside.

Two minutes later Simon Storey had a fantastic opportunity to get the equalizer for Green Gully but his strike hit the crossbar.

Lupo Lapsansky looked to his bench for some inspiration and on 73 minutes he brought on Mathew Sanders for Hamid Basma.

Last week Sanders came off the bench to score the winning goal in a 3-2 win over South Melbourne, and for the second week in a row he was Mr. Super-Sub.

Just a minute after coming on, with his first touch of the ball, Sanders slotted the ball past Nee-sham after a fantastic ball from Havne played him in.

Sanders turned provider three minutes later when he played a ball to Hayne in the centre of the area but he couldn't connect with the ball.

Two minutes after that, Sanders was played in one-on-one with Neesham but he took to long to release a shot with the 'keeper coming off his line well to close down the angles.

Green Gully continued to dominate in the closing stages of the

game but was un-able to find a winning goal.

Oakleigh seemed content to sit back and soak up the pressure as soon as they conceded the equalizer which was a very dangerous move.

But, luckily for them, Gully failed to find that elusive goal with the game ending in a quite entertaining 1-1 draw.

Next week Green Gully has another home game as they host the Melbourne Knights whilst Oakleigh travel to Springvale to take on the White Eagles.



Oakleigh's Dane Milovanovic is down and out temporarily and possible in need of a stretcher. Thankfully the big man was able to recover and took his position back in the game.
Inset: Matt Sanders celebrates after hitting the mark with his first touch.
Photo: DANIEL FLIS



Oakleigh Cannons coach Arthur Papas has a word to his troops as they leave the field.
Photo: DANIEL FLIS

ST ALBANS SAINTS



0

DANDENONG THUNDER



3

Match Details

St Albans Saints: 1. Steven PAVLOVIC, 5. Brian CHESSON, 8. Liam CANNELL, 10. Stefan PIORKOWSKI (7. Goran JOZELJIC, 70'), 11. Matthew DEMO, 15. Louis FENTON, 16. Tomislav MILARDOVIC, 17. Daniel VISEVIC, 19. Michael GRIGIC, 21. Martin HANA (14. Mark PALEKA, 67'), 22. Neven ANTIC. Unused Subs: 6. Alan PALEKA, 9. Josip LONCARIC, 20. Anthony LONCARIC.

Goal Scorers: Nil

Yellow Cards: 17. Daniel VISEVIC, 80'.

Dandenong Thunder: 1. Stuart WEBSTER, 2. Jack HINGERT, 3. Ben HARRISON, 5. Steven GRAY, 6. Acim TOMIC, 8. Mathew THEODORE, 9. Veton KORCARI (14. Stephen COOKE, 67', 11. Denis UKALOVSKI, 89'), 13. Shane REXHEPI, 17. Liam KEARNEY, 20. Luke SHERBON, 23. Chris TAYLOR. Unused Subs: 10. Feston AZIZI, 16. Jarryd BARNES, 26. Sermin SADIKOVSKI.

Goal Scorers: 17. Liam KEARNEY, 20', 8. Mathew THEODORE, 64', 20. Luke SHERBON, 90+1'.

Yellow Cards: 6. Acim TOMIC, 49'.

Three Thunder Strikes Sink Saints

By Vanessa Lougoon

Dandenong Thunder defeat St Albans 3-0 in a scrappy match, with both teams struggling to create and maintain consistent structure.

The first ten minutes was erratic, with both teams playing the ball aimlessly and appeared to have no game structure.

Dandenong were the first team to show signs of gathering their rhythm, by creating turnovers and getting the ball down to their attack.

Their first scoring opportunity was in the twelfth minute, when Mathew Theodore passed to Veton Korcari from the right wing, but could not make a solid connection shanking it to the left.

Although the Saints were keeping the pressure on, inaccurate passing led to easy turnovers to Dandenong.

Dandenong started to create structure in their attack and were rewarded in the 20th minute, with Liam Kearney dribbling the ball in on the goal line after receiving a pass from out right from Veton Korcari, set up by Mathew Theodore.

The Saints wasted a golden opportunity to equalize in the 38th minute, with Daniel Visevic accepting pass from Matthew Demo in front of goal, but kicked it straight to Thunder's keeper, Stuart Webster. Visevic had his chance to score again off the deflected ball, but could not make a solid connection sending it again to Webster, lucky to make the double save.

Thunder had their chance to



Liam Kearney is a happy chappy after notching Thunder's opening goal against the Saints. Photo: STEVE STAREK

extend their lead moments before half time, with a corner ball being fed precisely into the pack, but both teams desperately scrambled for the ball, with Saints keeper Steven Pavlovic eventually smothering it right on the whistle.

Dandenong looked sharper in the second half, although St Albans kept the pressure on by running down each ball and forcing turnovers, keeping possession fairly even.

The match started to become more physical with both teams

working hard to maintain possession.

The Saints were struggling to get numbers in attack when it counted, forcing players to attempt to score outside the goal square.

In the 62nd minute, St Albans Martin Hana belted one from 40 yards out left, but went straight over the goal post.

But it was Dandenong who had solid structure in their attack, scoring their second goal after Liam Kearney crossed to Mathew Theodore, who tapped

it in from in front of goal in the 64th minute.

Dandenong substitute Stephen Cooke almost had an immediate impact by cleverly working the ball into their goal square, patiently waiting for the right moment to strike, but Pavlovic predicted correctly, able to successfully deflect the ball.

The Saints last scoring opportunity came in the 85th minute, with Louis Fenton taking a shot from within the goal square, but Dandenong's defense were luckily able to

deflect the ball out.

Dandenong slowed down play by maintaining easy possession in the last five minutes, which frustrated the Saints.

A resultant free kick from 30 yards out front for Thunder's Luke Sherbon provided them with their third goal in the final moments of the match.

Next week, St Albans take on Northcote City at John Cain Memorial Park while Dandenong Thunder take on Richmond at George Andrews Reserve.



It's a simple tap in for Thunder's Matthew Theodore as the visitors double the lead and make it 2-0. Photo: STEVE STAREK



Saints' Louis Fenton appeals to the referee after going down to ground. Photo: STEVE STAREK

Knights fail to put away chances

By Andrew Fisher

The Melbourne Knights and visitors Northcote city played out a very entertaining 2-2 draw on Sunday afternoon at Knights Stadium

The home side will be frustrated at coming away with only a solitary point, after squandering a number of golden opportunities to take all three.

It was a tumultuous week for the Melbourne Knights, in which it saw arguably its best three players in Jean Dubios, Daniel Dragicevic and De Carmego Junior controversially depart the club and sign for bitter rivals South Melbourne.

However there is nothing more dangerous then facing an opponent with their backs against the wall and after a sluggish start the Knights began to take control of the match

The first sign of danger came in the 10th minute, Filipovic's cross was punched clear by Petropoulos only for it to fall to Magdic, with the goal beckoning Magdic shot was well blocked from Konstantinidis.

Just two minutes later though, the Knights hit the lead when Jacob Colosimo turned his opponent inside the box and finished well with his left foot, after his brother Adam created the opportunity with a well supplied pass.

Less the sixty seconds later, Belmont delivered a pin point cross to find Yusuf Yusuf unmarked at the back post, who somehow missed with his diving header when it seemed easier to score.

Northcote thought they had

Jacob Colosimo is the toast of Somers Street after hitting the back of the net twice. Photo: DANIEL ELIS

equalized when Rixon put the ball back into the net, only to be ruled offside by the linesman, although only minutes later with their first legitimate attack on goal Northcote did find an equalizer. Hayden D'Agostino's cross from the right wing found an unmarked Kalafatis to head home from the back post.

After working their way back into the match, Northcote almost gifted the Knights the lead back, under no pressure at all Konstantinidis headed over his own keeper, sending Petropoulos into a mad scramble to save the ball from crossing the line.

The first chance of the second half went to the visitors though the form of Trent Rixon, the clubs leading scorer had been kept quiet

from Knights new signing Tomislav Uskok, but on this occasion the striker used his strength to find room to strike at goal, but it was a tired shot that lacked any power and was easily saved by Martin John.

In the 55th minute the Knights regained the lead, Belmont split the defence with a though ball for Jacob Colosimo who kept his cool to chip over the rushing Petropoulos and into the empty net, but the lead was short lived, as Northcote earned their first corner just minutes later, and Glen Trifiro found an unmarked Konstantinidis in a crowded box to head home from short range.

Jacob Colosimo who was now relishing in the role departed by Jean Dubois was

on search for his hat-trick, and could have had it in the 60th minute had he directed his header on target from a Kozic cross.

Northcote on the back foot for the majority of the half, almost pinched the lead when Glen Trifiro bustled his way into the box and drew a decent save from John, and from the resulting corner, some poor marking from the Knights saw an unmarked Voulgaris head over the bar.

The last five minutes saw a flurry of chances fall the way of the home side, Yusuf supplied a delightful ball for an unmarked Welmont who headed over from close range, before Magdic looked odds on to score from close range before a desperate block from Konstantinidis.

However the best and most controversial chance for the Knights came in the 87th minute, when Filipovic dribbled his way into the box, and saw his shot deflect past the keeper, only to be cleared by a defender on the last line, when the ball looked to have clearly crossed the line for a goal]

A clearly frustrated Knights outfit will be ruining the chance of not taking all three points, but the draw does see the club move out of the relegation zone on goal difference. They face a tough away trip next week then they take on Green Gully at Green Gully Reserve on Saturday afternoon, whilst Northcote host bottom of the ladder St Albans at John Cain Reserve also on Saturday afternoon.



Brothers in arms: Anthony Colosimo is delighted after brother Jacob gets on the scoresheet.
Photo: DANIEL FLIS

It's a tango of tangles as Northcote's Jason Trifiro tries to hold his ground.
Photo: DANIEL FLIS



Sport

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